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THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## THE INFORMATION DAILY

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### THE ENGLISH WAY OF SEX

REBECCA DAVIES  
NEWSPAPER



# A quiet street, an 'ordinary' TV star and an extraordinary killing



Jill Dando with her fiancé, Alan Farthing. The couple were due to marry in September

**DETECTIVES** hunting the murderer of the television presenter Jill Dando were looking last night for a "well-groomed" man who was seen fleeing from her home seconds after she was shot on her doorstep.

The BBC celebrity's next-door neighbour heard her scream before rushing to the door to find her slumped on the step. She was unconscious and covered in blood. A post-mortem examination last night revealed a single gunshot wound to the head.

Last night, as tributes poured in for a television presenter whose immense popularity was based on her down-to-earth appeal, police said they were investigating whether Ms Dando, 38, had been killed by a stalker. Only last year, police were called to deal with an obsessive fan who was tormenting her with phone calls and letters, though he is not suspected of having anything to do with yesterday's events.

Ms Dando, who had recently announced her engagement and was preparing for the wedding in September, was attacked late yesterday morning as she returned to her house in Fulham, west London. Her assailant struck seconds after she stepped out of her car.

An ambulance crew was called to the scene and strug-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE  
AND TERRI JUDD

gled to revive her before she was transferred to Charing Cross Hospital. She died a little over an hour later, at 1.03pm. Her fiancé, Alan Farthing, was called to identify the body.

Richard Hughes 32, a financial trader who lived next door to the *Crimewatch* and *Holiday* programme presenter, said he had been upstairs when he heard her pull up outside and activate her car alarm. "Forty seconds later, I heard a scream... She was completely unconscious and covered in blood. I took a look at her, she was not breathing. Somebody called the emergency services."

Police immediately launched a massive hunt for Ms Dando's killer, with three dozen officers involved in house-to-house inquiries. Yesterday evening they sealed off a section of Thames riverbank at Putney, where there were reports that someone may have flung something into the bushes. Police confirmed they had found an object - possibly a weapon - but it was not clear whether they were linking it to the killing.

Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, leading the investigation, said police were investigating every possibility including the prospect that Ms



Crime officers inspecting Gowan Avenue, Fulham, west London, where Jill Dando was shot on her doorstep yesterday

Peter Macdiarmid

Dando had been the victim of a stalker.

Tributes to Ms Dando, were led yesterday by Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News. He said: "Everyone in BBC News is devastated. She was a wonderful person to work with and was respected and trusted by millions."

The murder was even discussed in the Commons with tributes from the Home Secretary and shadow Home Secretary. Other tributes were made by the Queen and Tony Blair. Ms Dando's brother, Nigel, a

reporter on the *Bristol Evening Post*, said he learnt of the tragedy early reports of an "incident" involving his sister. He said the news had come as a "huge shock" both to himself and his widowed father.

Martyn Lewis, a colleague on the *Six O'Clock News*, added: "Bewildered, tears and quiet anger fill the BBC newsroom today."

Nick Ross, her co-presenter on *Crimewatch*, said: "It's just so terrible. She was a smashing person. You could not

say anything bad about her."

Ms Dando was at the peak of her career. Despite stepping back from newsreading and handing over the lead role in the *Holiday* programme, her new *Antiques* programme was due to be broadcast on Sunday. Advance publicity for the show saw her posing on the front of the *Radio Times*, clad in a leather catsuit in front of an Aston Martin.

Last night, detectives had taken away Ms Dando's car, a BMW convertible, as scene-of-crime officers scoured the area

outside her house for possible clues. Officers last night erected an incident tent as they continued to work throughout the evening. Detectives confirmed there was no sign of a forced entry at the house and there was nothing to link the attack to her work with *Crimewatch*.

Earlier this year, at a reception to mark the 10th anniversary of the programme, Ms Dando admitted she had been concerned about her personal safety after taking the job. During one interview, she said:

"It upsets me that there are such brutal people... I take great care over home security and about walking home in the dark. But I also know that crimes are very rare."

Police said they were looking

for a dark-haired man in his late thirties to early forties. He was smartly dressed and carried a mobile phone.

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David Aaronovitch,  
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## EU imposes ban on Serb trade

EUROPE TIGHTENED the screws on President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday, approving plans to choke off fuel supplies, targeting the Yugoslav leader personally and making it illegal to assist the repair of economic assets destroyed by Nato air strikes.

Despite the oil embargo's potential for provoking tensions with Moscow, the package is calculated to heighten the political isolation of Belgrade and its ruling elite.

Yugoslavia buys about 50,000 tonnes of crude a month from Moscow, Russia's Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, yesterday said only the United Nations could impose sanctions, and that a Nato-backed embargo would not be binding on Russia.

A spokesman from the Fuel and Energy Ministry was more categorical: Russian oil deliveries will continue, he said.

The new European Union

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Luxembourg  
PHIL REEVES in Moscow  
AND PAUL WAUGH

measures were put in place as Tony Blair warned that the economic and military campaign against Yugoslavia would intensify until the Milosevic regime backed down.

On his return from the Nato summit in Washington, the Prime Minister rejected charges from within his own party that he is Nato's most "hawkish" leader but said there was no question of compromise with the Serb leader over the alliance's demands for restoring peace to Kosovo.

"In respect of being a hawk or not a hawk, it's nothing to do with that. Having taken this action, we have got to see it through," Mr Blair told the Commons.

"Some of the stories of the

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cruelty and barbarity practised by Serb militia are evil beyond belief... Nato will and must prevail. It is our collective task now to make that victory of justice over evil, a reality for Kosovo's long-suffering people," he said.

He warned that "grave consequences" would follow if Mr Milosevic attempted to destabilise the region with military action in the pro-Western Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, and in Hungary, Romania,

Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria.

"It is not an aim of military action to remove Milosevic, but while Milosevic remains in power, the security of the region is more difficult," he said.

Meeting in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers extended a travel ban on Belgrade businessmen to people with close ties to the Milosevic regime and family. President Milosevic and his cronies will also be brought

under the scope of a freeze on assets held by the Yugoslav government. "The package is getting tighter and tighter," said one EU diplomat. "This means that if the telephone system is bombed people cannot export mobile phones to help communications. The problem, of course, is enforcement."

The EU is stepping up pressure on eastern European countries that aspire to membership of the bloc to back the oil embargo. Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister, said the sanctions package represented "a broad recognition of the seriousness of the situation and a general desire to pursue the policy adopted so far".

Mr Fischer moved to defuse concern over the oil blockade and the fear that Nato warships will seek to stop and search Russian ships. The Washington summit had not gone that far, he said. The EU ban will

be policed by member states.

EU ministers failed to agree a full ban on sporting contacts with Yugoslavia, and neutral countries expressed reservations about the Nato action. However, both Rome and Athens agreed to the oil embargo despite earlier reservations.

Meanwhile, Strobe Talbott, the US envoy, is due in Moscow today and Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, will visit later this week. Despite potential tensions over the oil embargo, relations between Nato and Moscow have softened. Nato has stressed the importance of Russia's role as possible mediator. Russia has toned down its anti-Nato rhetoric. It is eyeing prizes down the road - the glory of eventually playing peacemaker, and the prospect that the Yugoslav conflict will ultimately damage Nato.

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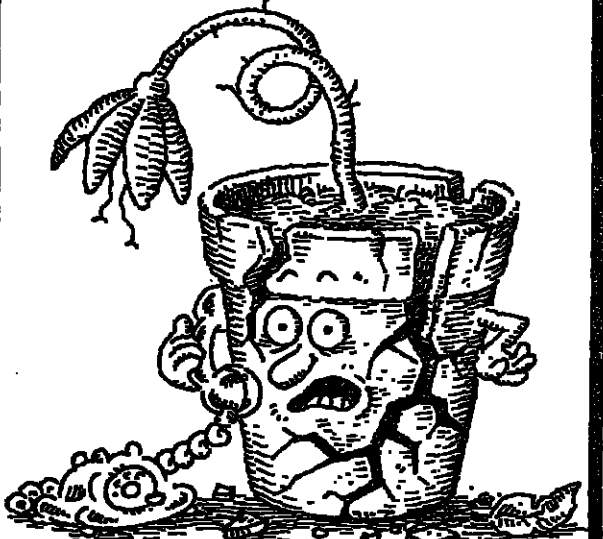
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# The mourning struck a strange note in the context of country at war

"IT'S JUST like Princess Diana," was one comment reported from inside BBC Television Centre yesterday after Jill Dando's murder. And as tributes came in from sources as elevated as the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and Sir Cliff Richard, an extraordinary sense of national mourning did seem to be taking shape.

BY JOHN DAVISON

and TVs, following the developments. Tears were being shed. The Jill Dando Internet site even became an impromptu book of remembrance, as fans left tributes at the rate of two "hits" per second. While friends spoke of a genuinely nice, grounded person and a fine professional who never got carried away with her own celebrity, it all nevertheless struck a strange note in a country at war abroad and in fear of racist bombings at home. Tony Blair took time away from preparing his Commons statement on the Nato summit

to frame a suitable response. "He was deeply shocked. He had met her both professionally and socially at Downing Street and in common with many people he found her totally charming and highly talented," a spokesman reported. From Buckingham Palace, the Queen was said to be "shocked and saddened". Ms Dando had helped the Duke of York to promote the Fight for Sight charity, of which he is patron, and he was also particularly saddened by the news, a spokesman said. Sir Cliff Richard, a close friend and fellow Christian, spoke from Copenhagen where

he is on tour. "I'm finding it really hard not to wish Jill's killer a horrific death. I'm absolutely shattered," he said. Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown said: "Jill Dando was a hugely popular broadcaster. It is a terrible irony that, after all her work defending the victims of crime and help in pursuing criminals, she should fall victim herself to an horrific crime." In the Commons, Jack Straw spoke of the "tragic and appalling loss". His statement on the Brixton and Brick Lane nail bombings came later. In response to Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow Home Secretary,

who raised the subject, Mr Straw said: "She was someone who was at the height of her powers. She had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role not least in *Crimewatch UK* and therefore this makes her death all the more poignant." BBC Director General Sir John Birt said: "This is devastating news. Jill was loved by her audiences and by everyone who worked with her at the BBC. Jill's public and private persona were one and the same. She was always warm, generous, natured and cheerful - a good companion on and off screen." It was a theme expanded on

in typically blunt style by John Humphrys, the TV and radio presenter: "For most of us who appear on telly half a dozen times it does something to you and some of us get airs and graces, we become prima donnas. But that didn't happen to Jill," he said. "She was an entirely natural person, just a completely normal unaffected person and viewers spotted that." BBC director of television Alan Yentob said: "She was a natural television performer and outstanding journalist as well. She connected with audiences, she was an incredibly warm human being.

Chief Superintendent David Hatcher of Kent Police appeared for years alongside Ms Dando on the *Crimewatch UK*. He said: "Her involvement with *Crimewatch* was as much for the victims as for society, so it's unbelievable she should have died in this way. I know the whole police service will be galvanised to find her killer." Ms Dando was held in particularly high esteem in the West Country, where she did her journalistic training and continued to do charity work. The *Bristol Evening Post*, where her brother Nigel is the chief reporter, last night issued a commemorative edition.

Fellow *Sir O'Clock News* presenter Martyn Lewis was in the newsroom when the news broke. He described the "bewilderment, tears and quiet anger" among her colleagues. One of the most touching tributes, however, came from Andrew Harvey, who worked with Ms Dando on breakfast television. He last saw her at her engagement party in January. "Jill was obviously the star of the party but you never felt that," he said. "She spent the whole evening not waiting for people to come up and talk to her but rushing around taking photos of her friends so that she would have a memento," he said.

## Plain-girl image was secret of her fame

JOHN BETJEMAN, the late poet laureate, would have had no difficulty explaining Jill Dando's appeal. She was precisely the kind of English girl about whom he enthused in his poems: cheerful, sporty and fresh-faced, with a hint of sexiness beneath the surface.

BY KATHY MARKS

column inches in the tabloid press, she appeared genuinely unflustered by the attention. "I'm a very ordinary person," she said in an interview a couple of years ago. "I am still surprised when people come up to me in the street and put me on a pedestal. I don't see myself other than I have always been. "It's nice to think that people see me as a mate. I think people would trust me with their key if they went away."

The range of programmes that Ms Dando presented - including *Holiday*, *Crimewatch UK*, *Sir O'Clock News* and *Songs of Praise* - was testament to the universality of her appeal, as well as to her professional versatility. Ms Dando, a committed Christian, was born in Weston-super-Mare in 1961. Hers was a family with journalistic connections; her father, Jack, was a compositor on the local newspaper, the *Weston & Somerset Mercury*, and her older brother, Nigel, went on to become chief reporter at the *Bristol Evening Post*. Her mother, Jean, died of leukaemia when Jill was 24. Born with a hole in her heart and not given a clean bill of health until the age of 10, Ms Dando once recalled herself as "rather an ugly little girl with canine teeth, glasses and an extremely old-fashioned dress sense". At 17, she got herself some contact lenses and a perm. "Suddenly nobody recognised me," she said. "I couldn't believe it when the heart-throb at the church youth group asked me out."

That sense of incredulity persisted when she became famous and learnt that she was a national sex symbol. "I'm not 'telly totty', so I don't know what the appeal is," she said in a recent interview. "I suppose I have that girl-next-door demeanour that some people like and which others find a turn-off. I don't think I'm all things to all men."



Jill Dando in January, shortly before announcing her engagement to Alan Farthing. She said their relationship 'changed the way I look on life'

Peter J Jordan

After a stint as a trainee reporter at the *Weston & Somerset Mercury*, Ms Dando moved to BBC Radio Devon, where she presented the breakfast programme. In 1988, she got her first job in television, as a presenter with BBC South-west, a traditional showcase for national talent. With a face and a voice that were perfect for television, she was quickly noticed and lured to London, where she presented a series of news programmes including *BBC Breakfast News*. She recently pulled out of the running to present the revamped *Sir O'Clock News*, after suggestions that she was not sufficiently heavyweight (the job went to Huw Edwards).

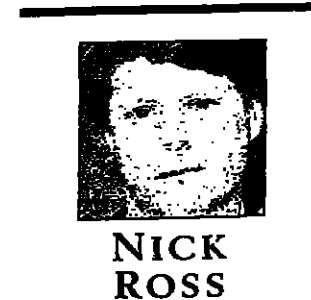
One of the most poignant aspects of her violent and premature death is that she had finally found happiness in her personal life, to match her professional success. After a seven-year relationship with Bob Wheaton, a television executive, and a brief fling with Simon Bassil, a game warden whom she met while on safari in Kenya, Ms Dando was introduced by a mutual friend last year to Alan Farthing, a consultant gynaecologist at a London hospital. The couple were photographed in a passionate embrace by paparazzi who tracked them on a skiing holiday in France. Three months ago, they announced that they planned to marry in September. Ms Dando said that the relationship had "changed the way I look on life"; she planned to scale back her television work after the wedding.

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## 'Jill was always surprised at how cruel people could be'

I LAST saw Jill on Tuesday. Actually she saw me first. Someone punched my bottom. I turned round and it was Jill, grinning. We chatted about her wedding. Everything was great. She had this new antiques programme starting. She was so relieved to be stopping *Holiday*. I think it had taken her a lot of time to build up to resigning but, once she had made the decision, there were no regrets. She was in high spirits. She was so looking forward to having her life back.



NICK ROSS

The trouble is it's very hard not to reach for the clichés, but they are all so valid. Jill was about to get married. It was the only gap in her life, the one thing missing, and it was about to be filled. That she should be the victim of such a crime is such an irony. She was so keen to work on *Crimewatch*. For a

long time she had said: "If ever there is a vacancy", I said there wasn't anyone we would look at if she was interested. She was so remarkably modest. If you went out with her she was always a head-turner. She was always rather surprised about that. Jill believed in *Crimewatch*. She wanted to work on it not just because she thought it

was a powerful piece of television but because she passionately believed in right and wrong. She was almost in tears on at least one occasion talking to victims. Her sense of surprise at how cruel people could be to each other never left her, even after three years. She would never, ever use black humour about a *Crimewatch* case. She would always treat each story with reverence. Jill never pretended to be a heavyweight intellectual. The most astonishing thing about her was that, for someone who was modest about her intellectual prowess, she actually had a lot more brains than people who pretended to be clever. She was quietly quite religious. Cliff Richard was one of her closest friends. She was never someone who was going to be bowled over and change

what she fundamentally was simply because she was in this magic rectangle. She did tell me about a stalker, that she was having hassle. But there was never, ever any sense that she might be in mortal danger - or even physical danger. It was an irritant. There had certainly not been any form of serious confrontation. At least, I think Jill would have told me if there had been. At her engagement party she was almost diffident, as if she was surprised that someone had asked her to marry him. It was a modest announcement, really remarkably low-key. It was all very warm. She has such a wonderful family. I'm just appalled at what they must be going through now. The author was co-presenter of *Crimewatch* with Jill Dando

## PANDORA

EMMANUEL PETIT (pictured) is a handful on the park - and he knows how to do a one-two off the pitch as well. Arsenal's Gallie star is moving to North London's chichi Primrose Hill. So the Gunners' midfield maestro sent a round robin to his neighbours to introduce himself, and say how much he was looking forward to meeting them. His letter also contained a plea that shows that, while you can take the man out of France, you can't completely take France out of the man. Did any of his new neighbours have, he wondered, a cave (French for a cellar) he could use? Seems that Petit's extensive bottle collection's already outstripped the space available in his new home.

**VULCAN FOUNDLING** John Redwood is driving colleagues further and further around the bend with his increasingly idiosyncratic brand of Euroscepticism. He's been telling anyone who will listen - hey, where's everybody going? - how he favours Jaguars because we should buy British. Hold up, what are those wheels a spotter saw the Vulcan catching a ride in after a Commons debate this week? Could it really be a Mercedes? Ja.

**TRAVEL BUSINESSES** dealing with Turkey say bookings are plunging. Agents blame both the Balkans conflict and warnings by Kurdistan Workers' Party terrorists that the PKK will target tourists this year. Could this deadly duo be affecting Greece's inbound traffic too? Neh (Greek for yes), according to the trade book *Travel Weekly*. A client called an agent to cancel his holiday on the island of Kos. She asked him why. He replied: "Isn't it the capital of Kosovo?"

**WESLEY CLARK**, the supreme commander of Nato's Balkan bombing campaign, said this week: "We've only just begun." This echoes the Carpenters' identically titled 1970 hit. Next year the duo released "Hurting Each Other" - and, in what may prove a prescient theme, in 1972 they followed through with "It's Going To Take Some Time".

**GERALD CORBETT**, the Railtrack boss, claims he plays a video of an especially savage grilling by the Transport Select Committee to his teenage children "to make them feel sorry for me". And Pandora thought her domestic life was quirky...

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

SO, PATRICIA Arquette and her spouse Nicolas Cage are heading for Split City. Coincidentally, Arquette stars in *Goodbye Lover* with Don Johnson, who is expected to get spliced with Kelley Phleger this week. Considering the 49-year-old star's well-publicised roistering, the bride should enjoy those cries of "lucky girl!" while she can.

**"LIBERAL DEMOCRATS** are so far in bed with Tony Blair that they're just a hideous lump under the duvet," says Tory hopeful Francis Maude on Lib-Labbery. Sure, Frankie, but at least the minority party is still in the game - which is more than can be said for your Fraxious mob just now.

**MORE HORSETRADING** in the race to succeed Paddy to lead the yellow party. At the launch of J Thorpe's memoirs this week, some liberal voices sounded disappointed that Nick Harvey (North Devon) had pulled up at the first fence. Not so, say Harvey's camp. Their man has just been "negotiating" with the dapper new frontrunner Menzies Campbell (Fife North East). Pandora hopes the Campbell-Harvey pow-wow is more productive than a recent meet between David Rendel (Newbury) and Simon Hughes (Berkshire); Hughes's camp emerged saying Rendel would stand aside for their man - strangely, Rendel's handlers' version was the precise opposite.

**DROP EVERYTHING** Dept. "In other places, spring means daffodils, lambs and plowing (sic) the fields but in Slough it means that the Slough Jets are holding their annual 'all star' fundraising evening" - news release.

THERE'S BEEN a new development in the evolution of men's magazines. Catering to the older new lad, *Lol* has been dreamed up by IPC as a kind of Boy Scout option for the overgrown Cubs at *Lol*.

It's an odd magazine, in which men lose all track of time because they're constantly fretting about their girlfriends, and as such it seems spookily similar to the stuff in the heads of all the men who have ever struck you as perfectly decent, normal human beings. So, most of them really.

On the cover there's a thin veneer of male bravado, although there's no indication of what month or year it may be. Instead, there's a sly line reading "Success Money Women" and a topos example of priority number three with her arm across her breasts and none of her moles airbrushed out. There are no nipples inside, either, except for male ones.

While a couple of the coverlines blatantly cut to the chase and mention girlfriends - "Sex tips we tried on our own girlfriends" and "When girlfriends attack" - the one that grabs the attention is "She's an old



DEBORAH ORR

Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute

trollop: Vinnie Jones: Agony Uncle". Is there no beginning to Vinnie's talents, one asks yet again. Footballing, acting, writing and now counselling. Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute. Needless to say, his advice is shocking.

Q: My girlfriend dumped me for another man and I'm struggling to

remain her friend. Am I wrong to get angry with her?

A: Turning your back on feelings is hard, so I won't tell you to just forget about her...

Q: My girlfriend wants to have kids but my sexy and slightly mad ex has recently come back on the scene. I'm torn.

A: ...You can't keep going off to see your ex just because it's easy to give her one...

See what I mean? Shockingly sensitive. But what about that trollop? A workmate girlfriend with whom our correspondent has fallen in love. She won't stop two-timing him with their boss, and he fears for their future happiness as well as both of their jobs. We women have a word for gals like that, too, Vinnie. And it's "trollop". There's no need to go bandying that offensive word "old" about, you know.

Although, in *Lol* (which should perhaps instead be titled *Earlier*), old is good.

Take a look at the heroes of the *Lol* lad, all of whom are showcased in issue one. Barry Sheene, Odd Job from *Goldfinger*, Harry Grout (the Guv'nor in *Porridge*),

James Caan (circa *Rollerball*), Clint Eastwood, Bruce Lee, David Bailey, Leonard Rossiter and James Hunt.

And the heroines? *Lol* requests that you ask your dad about them. Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda and Marianne Faithfull. Familiar faces from the old days, when men were men and women were women, and when sexual politics hadn't been invented.

Not that you entirely get the idea that the *Lol* lad longs for those days. He wishes instead that his girlfriend could be an entirely emancipated but utterly old-fashioned pin-up.

Since quite a number of women seem to want that too, there is likely to be no shortage of candidates for the readers' girlfriends section, in which ordinary women are photographed by top photographers and interviewed about what they want from their sexual partners. There's progress of some kind here, I think, but I'm not sure what kind of progress it may be.

So what does it all mean? Who is the *Lol* lad, and will women like him? Well, stop me if you've heard this one before, but he's an eternal

child still mulling over the world that opened up to him when he was 18. But only because he knows there are things he still hasn't quite resolved from early adolescence, that really do need to be sorted out before he can move on.

In fact, there's a feature in the magazine in which one intrepid reporter goes out and spends a day doing the things he would have done at 15. Of course, he has a girlfriend, who gamely submits to the kind of seduction techniques at the author's 15-year-old command.

But while the writer enjoys his day as an adolescent, he realises that it is important for him to progress. Progressing means being successful and having some money, thus making it easier for a chap to settle down with his girlfriend. And while he isn't actually begging for baby-care tips, he knows that any sensible man will want children eventually, and that any sensible man will just do exactly what he's told to do when it comes to looking after them. Decent chaps.

Like a laugh, love a girlfriend. Surely there's a market here - for the magazine and for the men.

## Vinnie Jones tackles sensitivity

## Black and Asian Britons still can't trust the police



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

When police dogs are treated cruelly, officers are sent to prison. We obviously matter less

AN OBVIOUS point. In a democratic society, the police can function only by consent. Trust must underpin that consent, but for a good long time we, black and Asian Britons, have not had that basic faith in the British police force.

I lost mine when I went on an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall. It was St George's Day in April 1979, exactly 20 years ago. I was then a young, fiery woman who could run in platform-heel sandals, thank God. I went full of hate for the National Front and I left full of fear and loathing of the Metropolitan Police. Two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-six officers, several dogs and a helicopter invaded the tiny suburban locality. Young people were coshed and kicked in front of my eyes and Blair Peach, a young white teacher, was beaten to death by one officer from the frenzied Special Patrol Group. The officer was never identified or tried but 342 Southall Asians were, some of them charged with deliberately putting their heads in the way of police boots.

This would all be history were it not for the fact that the ugly tradition of protecting racist policemen is still very much with us. And in spite of the well-tuned contrition and statements of good intent which have been gushing out of the Met and other forces since the Lawrence Inquiry, I see little reason as yet to be optimistic.

I will change my mind when I see one, just one, high-profile sacking of a racially violent police officer or when I see real evidence that when police officers have failed properly to protect black and Asian citizens - such as Paul Condon, whose repeated failures have been white-washed in a damning PR exercise with the collusion of those who should know better - they are held to account.

Take this week. Angry black and Asian peers of the realm have complained that the police have failed to take seriously the death threats that they have received from racist groups. The Met has also had to apologise for fabricating information about Roger Sylvester, a black man who died in police custody after being restrained. What good is the massive recruitment drive for more black and Asian officers and expensive anti-racist training if there is no attempt to root out racism - witless, violent and at times murderous - within the forces?

A disproportionate number of black, Asian and Irish people die in custody following the use of force. A Home Office report on deaths in custody shows clear disparities between different racial and ethnic groups. According to Inquest, a campaign and support group working with the families of those who die in custody, between 1989 and 1996 there were 102 deaths of blacks in custody, of which 51 were in police cells. The Met record is not good. In 1996, for example, 35 per cent of

those who died in their custody were black or Asian. These were not all deaths caused by the police, of course. But many died as a result of neckholds, CS sprays and other forms of restraint.

Sir Paul has been running the ship since Joy Gardner was killed in front of her five-year-old son. Since then we have had the deaths of Shaji Lapite, Brian Douglas, Wayne Douglas, Ibrahim Sey and Roger Sylvester. Not one officer has ever been punished for any of these deaths. And if you want to see what this does to family members, go and listen to Joy Gardner's mother Myrna, as she addresses one public meeting after another. She is going mad with grief - as I would if I felt that the death of my child, caused by the custodians of law and order, meant nothing to this country.

At least we hear about the deaths. What we know barely anything about is what goes on in the back of police vans, on our streets and in police cells where black, Asian and Irish people are physically assaulted, threatened and terrorised by officers for no good reason.

The list of the known victims is long enough. Claudette Thompson was assaulted by a policeman who then bit his own finger and claimed that he had acted in self-defence. The teeth marks did not fit, so £50,000 was paid out to keep things quiet. And £200,000 went to Danny Gosselin, who was handcuffed and beaten by officers. Sir Paul Condon defended these policemen in court.

A significant number of black and Asian people use the civil claims complaints system against brutal policemen. The Met and others simply settle out of court with public funds. When police dogs are treated cruelly officers are tried and sent to prison. We obviously matter less.

What should worry us even more



Blair Peach's coffin is carried through Southall in 1979 PA

is the fact that the Police Complaints Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service have also failed to respond properly to this problem, even when Inquest juries return a verdict of unlawful killing. In the case of Shaji Lapite, who was killed in 1994, the verdict of unlawful killing was unanimous. Yet for five years neither the police nor the prosecution has chosen to take action against the perpetrators, despite a successful judicial review which challenged their inaction.

What is heartening, though, is that committed lawyers and others such as Deborah Cole, the director of Inquest, carry on fighting for justice in the face of this cross-institutional protection racket. Raju Bhatt and Fiona Murphy - both bright and passionate lawyers - and others, too, who represent many of the bereaved families, do what they do at great personal cost. Not only are they unlikely to become fat-cat lawyers, but they are also seen as a threat by many in the criminal justice system. The Police Federation and others brand them as "political

agitators" and "subversives", just as Rosemary Nelson was by the RUC in Northern Ireland. As Murphy says, the system is utterly bankrupt. We need to create a police force in which integrity is non-negotiable and where instead of falling over themselves to prevent action against racist police officers, there is a new morality that insists upon it.

We can trust the police only if it is seen to be done. And the police can do their job dealing with the real problems of crime within our communities only if they have this trust from the rest of us. Last Monday, Jack Straw had a meeting with bereaved families, Inquest and others. He is reflecting on whether we need a public inquiry. We do, but we need more than that, Jack. We need heads to roll before we black and Asian Britons can feel safe in the hands of the British police. This is a crucial issue for the whole of society. If this racism is allowed to go unpunished, other evils too will grow and the culture of an arrogant and unaccountable police force will affect all citizens in the end.

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## The two styles of Muslim leadership

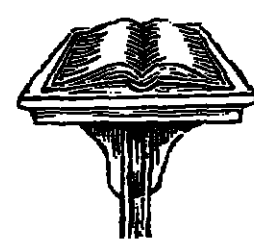
UPON THE answer to the question of who speaks for Muslims concerns rest the concerns and thinking of many in the West; not only scholars and journalists but also policy-makers and political leaders. Yet there is a great deal of wishful thinking in providing the answer. In the West, it is well to remember that Western experts, on the eve of the Shah of Iran's fall in the late Seventies, were predicting Iran's emergence as a modern, secular force in Asian politics that would dominate the region for decades. There was no Islamic cloud on the horizon. Western analysts have therefore got it spectacularly wrong before. They need now to be more cautious, more analytic and more understanding about what is happening in the Muslim world today.

To many Western commentators and leaders the model they would like to see succeed in the Muslim world prejudices them in favour of that model and against the other ones. They overlook the serious shortcomings of their favourite group, which in turn explain the popularity of the opposed

models. The more they support one group, the greater the internal pressure in society to bolster and push up the other group. That is why the tussle becomes international and global from regional and local.

When speaking of Muslim leadership let us not talk to the sophisticated leaders who have returned from Ivy League colleges or the Oxbridge ones to provide leadership to their societies. Let us talk to the ordinary man and woman in the Muslim world who must face the brunt of the injustice, oppression, collapse of law and order and escalating prices that have become the daily grind. To these ordinary Muslims, their first priorities are law and order; a feeling of safety and security at home, and a desire to see justice being done. Finding little succour in Western-style democracy they invariably fall back to the regional and local Islamic support being offered them. At least in Islam there is the hope of justice and law and order.

The two opposed models of leadership that clearly confront each other are: first, one based in the newly emerged religious groups, as in Afghanistan; and



PODIUM

AKBAR AHMED  
From an address by the Cambridge don to the Royal Commonwealth Society's 'Leadership in Islam' conference

secondly, one found in the democratic societies such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. The first is rooted in the *Madrasah*, the village or religious school, and creates a student with a defined vision of the world. The aim is to propagate Islam and alter the world order to do so. Theirs is the rhetoric of confrontation and violence, of sacrifice and challenge. The other model, which has struggled to survive and has

shown resilience in spite of many hurdles, is based on a democratic order. Leaders are thrown up in elections and they then attempt to carry out their election promises during their tenure for the allocated period in office.

The relevance of M A Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan) to this model is great. It was not only his sense of abiding by the law but also his integrity which made it work. It allowed deflection of his critics, who said he was not an orthodox Muslim. Although they could challenge him for not being regular at prayer or dressing like a Muslim or failing to grow a beard, they could not challenge him on his integrity or high moral principles.

The style and content of this leadership are different. It is not only a question of superficial sartorial differences. There are substantial ideological and philosophical differences. One believes in being educated in the indigenous vernacular and using Arabic as the base language; the other in English and looking towards Westminster. One believes that society is God-ordained and it is the duty of every Muslim to

change it according to the laws of God; the other that democracy must prevail and the voice of the majority must be heard. One believes in wearing traditional clothes, living a simple life and remaining close to the roots of society; the other in aspiring to the style of leadership of other world democracies, which often involves vast expenses beyond what the local treasury can support.

One believes in honesty and integrity as a moral duty; the other talks of integrity and morality but is often seen to be violating them in behaviour. One believes that Islam and only Islam is the way of life; the other, while acknowledging Islam, also takes into account other religions and cultures and incorporates this into their constitutions.

One believes in challenging the West head on and targeting the Jews and Christians as the enemy; the other believes that we are related to a global system that requires some interdependence and some cultural interpenetration, and that the Muslim world can learn from, and absorb, the West.



# After a month of bombing, how much of Serbia is 'degraded'?

## DAMAGE

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

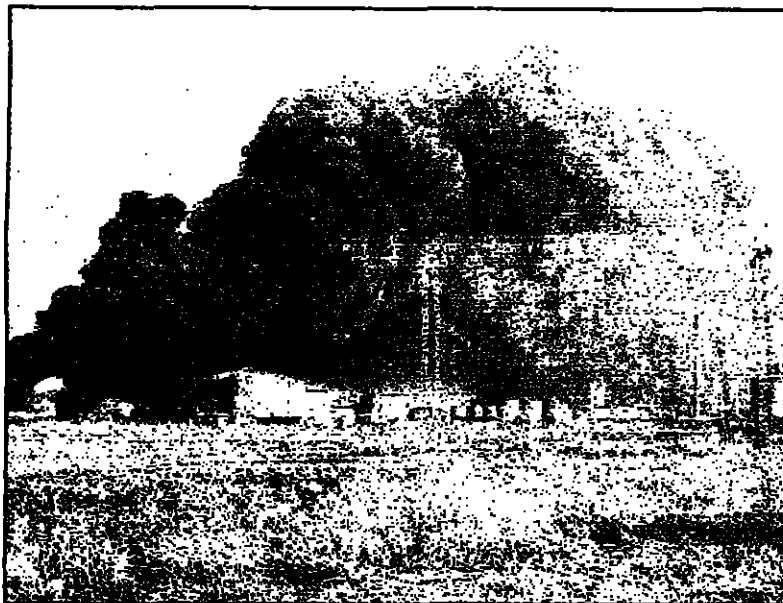
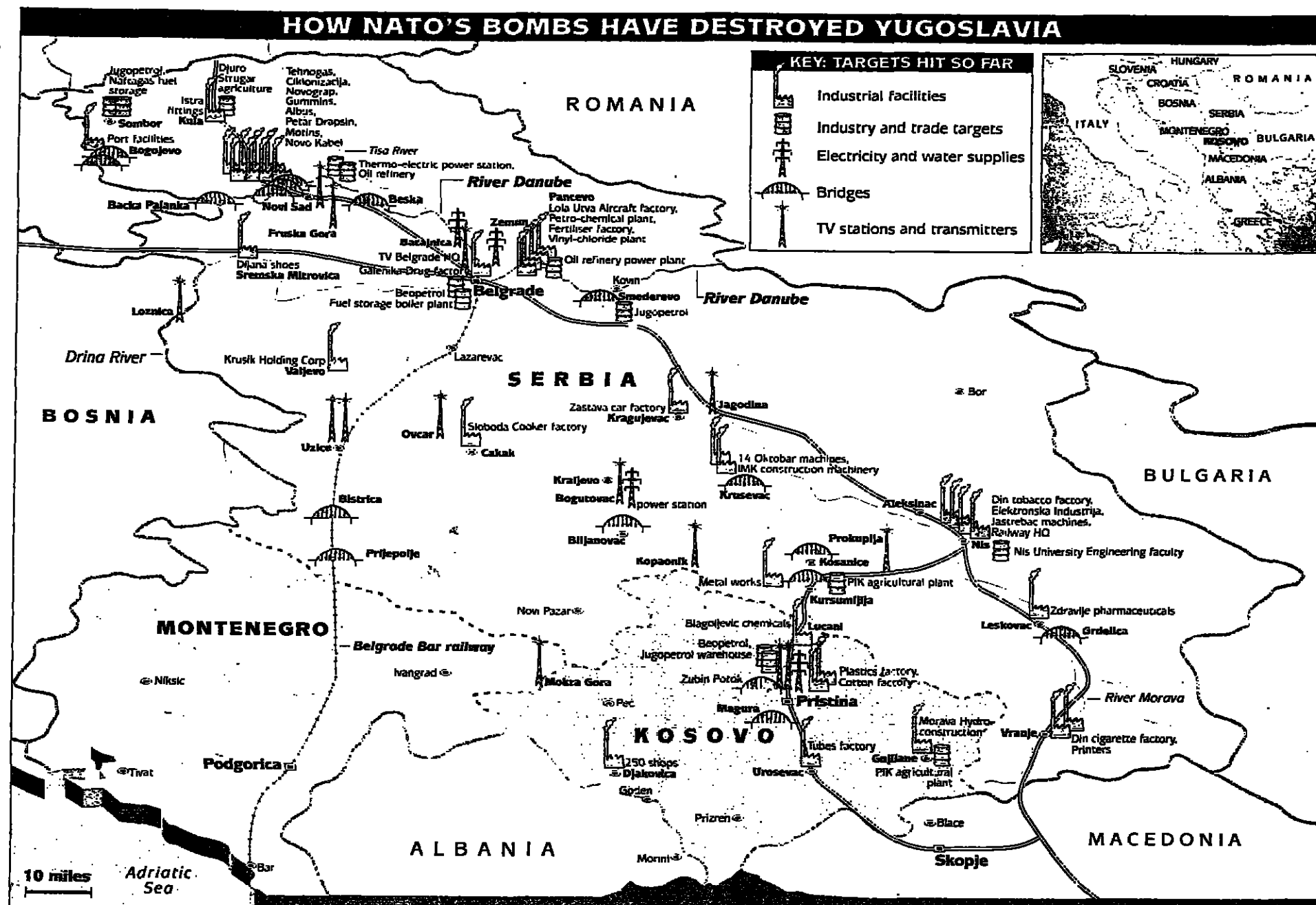
WHO WILL pay for it all? When the Yugoslav war is over, who is going to foot the bill for the massive industrial destruction - including 36 factories and 19 oil refineries, gas facilities and power plants - which the Serbs list among the infrastructure attacked by Nato jets and missiles?

In Belgrade, the government says it is already compiling a list of destroyed factories, electrical and communications facilities it expects the Nato alliance to repair once the conflict is over. They include 32 road and rail bridges and 19 television stations and transmitters as well as widespread damage in civilian areas. Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, estimated the cost at more than \$70bn (£45bn).

The Yugoslav army, television stations and the official Tanjug news agency put out regular daily accounts of Nato attacks on the country - usually leaving out any reference to military targets but always including damage to civilian property. Nato briefings highlight military targets, largely ignore civilian damage and regard major industrial targets as "dual-purpose" facilities which are of use to the military as well as civilians. Thus Nato claims that weapons were made at the heavily bombed Zastava car plant and the Sloboda home appliance factory at Cacak. Serbia says the attacks were a deliberate attempt to destroy the civilian infrastructure of the country and create mass unemployment. In some cases, factories, refineries and bridges have been attacked as many as seven times.

The Nato missile attack last week on the 24-storey building comprising commercial offices as well as three television stations and two political party headquarters in Belgrade has taken the jobs of 6,000 people. In Kragujevac, the factory raids are said to have cost 26,000 jobs among the local workforce. Six days after the Novi Sad city hall was hit, a bomb destroyed the central post office at Uzice. Hundreds of civilian homes have been badly damaged in Nato raids.

According to Yugoslav local authorities, recent - though largely unreported - attacks killed 10 Serb civilians at Djakovica in Kosovo, at Velika Dobrinje village (where a six-year-old girl, Arta Lugic, died) and at Doganovic in Kosovo where five brothers from the Kodza family, aged between



Smoke rising from burning oil refinery tanks at Pancevo, 10 miles north of Belgrade, after a Nato air raid on Sunday. Right: A man rows his boat past a Belgrade river bridge destroyed in a Nato bombing raid at the weekend



## TIMETABLE: DAYS 33, 34

**Sunday 25 April**  
10.35pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade.  
11.55pm: Tanjug, the state news agency, says Nato warplanes fired six missiles and damaged the Slatina civilian airport, south-west of Pristina.

**Monday 26 April**  
12.15am: The last remaining bridge in Novi Sad, the second largest Yugoslav city, knocked down.  
12.30am: Explosions heard near the north-west Serbian town of Sombor.  
12.40am: Fuel depot attacked near the central Serbian town of Valjevo. Several strong detonations heard in Sombor on the border with Hungary.

1.20am: Nato fires two missiles at the Grmija picnic grounds, north-east of Pristina. No damage estimate yet.  
2.35am: The Serbian state television (RTS) stops broadcasting for three hours after playing the Yugoslav national anthem.  
5.10am: All clear sounds in Belgrade.  
6.30am: RTS resumes service.

11am: Senior Russian officials, including Viktor Chernomyrdin, the special envoy to the Balkans, meet to discuss the Kosovo crisis and prepare for talks with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott.

11.50am: Air raid sirens sound in Novi Sad and Nis. Yugoslav army air-defence units are heard firing.

1pm: The head of the International Red Cross meets three US soldiers who have been held captive by Yugoslav forces for a month but can give no further information about their physical condition.

3pm: The last of 24 US Apache ground attack helicopters being deployed for offensive operations against Serb forces in Kosovo arrive in Albania.

5pm: The Libya state news agency JANA says President Slobodan Milosevic has sent an envoy to the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, to ask for his help in resolving the Kosovo crisis.

All times BST

## We are being cheated by 'It's like we're state lies, says Draskovic all in prison'

### PROPAGANDA

BY ROBERT FISK

"SO LET'S tell people the truth... we are alone." With those nine words, Vuk Draskovic has written himself into the history of Nato's war against Yugoslavia, a roaring, harsh voice demanding reality and an end to propaganda, peace with honour and an end to lies. Nato misquoted him, of course. The Serbian regime responded in shocked silence. But Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Serbian Renewal Party had struck.

Nato was not about to break apart, he told Serbs. It was growing stronger. Russia was not about to send squadrons of bombers to rescue Serbia. International public opinion had turned against Serbia after "horrible scenes of Albanian refugees and human suffering overwhelmed the Western world". Serbia must be ready to accept them back - and to accept a UN-led international "presence" in Kosovo.

Even for Yugoslav viewers, this was strong stuff. Was Mr Draskovic preparing himself to be the interlocutor valuable of Yugoslavia? The next president, perhaps?

from the United Nations Security Council for its bombardment.

"Our people have been cheated by claims from the start that it's only a question of time before Nato breaks apart - that divisions are growing between Europe and the United States," Mr Draskovic said.

"Its aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has enabled Nato to dominate Europe and to homogenise Nato itself. So Nato is becoming stronger. Romania and Bulgaria will enter Nato... it may even become a kind of world military organisation. If Russia joins... then it will be the greatest army in the world. So it is important that the UN places this machinery under international control."

The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, quoted only the first and third sentences of this remarkable statement. And Nato leaders did not mention Mr Draskovic's demand that Albanian Kosovo refugees should return home with the help of world humanitarian organisations after "UN troops have come". But it was clear the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister was responding to the Nato summit in Washington, reminding his supporters that Yugoslavia was a founder of the UN and that the member of the UN and the UN covenant was little different to the constitution of Yugoslavia. The Rambouillet and Paris



Draskovic: 'No more lies'

agreements had, in effect, provided for an independent Kosovo. That no longer applied.

But it was his implicit criticism of those around President Slobodan Milosevic that will have stung nationalist Serbs. "Many people talk about 'unity' and 'endurance'," he said. "But I believe the most important thing is to understand and get a grip on reality. The leaders of this country must clearly tell the people where we are and who we're with... Will Nato break apart? Some false prophets claim that in a couple of days we will celebrate victory over Nato. They must tell us what is the real public opinion... Let's not lie to the people any more that we are getting the Russian Sukhoi (bomber), or S-300s or S-400s or military

aid or that Russia is entering World War Three."

World opinion supported Yugoslavia in the first week of the Nato bombardment. Mr Draskovic said, but the sight of human suffering among the Albanian refugees had turned the world "almost entirely against us - but this is concealed here". Western countries were "mainly reasonable and moderate". Words were being misused. Why did the state media refer to "criminal Nato aggression" as if aggression could ever be anything but criminal?

"The other night, someone said [on television] that the three Nato PoWs should have been taken to Branko's Bridge [in Belgrade] and roasted there on a spit. I protested about this in the federal government - although I'm willing to defend the media's freedom. I demanded that these people be taken off the television because they shame Serbia and our tradition. Serbs do not roast people."

There can be little doubt that several leading figures in the regime will feel like roasting Mr Draskovic for his remarks. The leader of the democratic movement a couple of years ago, the Deputy Prime Minister is regarded by many as a turncoat for joining the Milosevic coalition. He didn't call for the overthrow of the regime. The "cracks" in the government to which Mr Robertson referred had been there all along. But his words just might provide a political path out of a war that neither side seems able to win.

### ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO

BY EMMA DALY in Kukes

ONE OF the few Albanians left in Pristina told *The Independent* on a crackling telephone line yesterday of the terrifying conditions facing Kosovars who have failed to flee in time from the Serb police and paramilitary forces who now infest the city.

"I am alive," Minoza told me. "The phone lines are cut to all Albanians, but I know how to work them."  
"I don't know if we will leave. One night, some Serb gunmen came and told us all to leave, but a Serb neighbour said, 'You can stay, I will protect you'."

"So we did, but the family is scared. I have had no news of my boyfriend for three weeks. I went to his house one day, and it was a mess, totally destroyed. Nobody was left there."  
Minoza said the Albanians stranded in Pristina have to remain indoors most of the day and must speak Serbian if and when they venture out.

"We just stay inside as if we were in prison," she said. "Sometimes I go out to buy food, I wear a hat and dark glasses so no one can recognise me and I speak Serbian. We can only buy from the Serbs. If there is anything left, they sell it to Albanians. But you have to show your ID to buy anything, and when they see you are Albanian, they curse and say 'Go and ask Nato for bread'."

passports for a fee to be paid in German currency. "My sister blames my father for not doing enough to get us out of the city earlier," she said. "But now my father is going out to get a new passport for her. It seems unbelievable, but the authorities are making passports in 24 hours in Pristina's Grand Hotel. You just have to pay 483 dinars [80 marks or £28]."

"But it is very risky trying to leave for Albania. My cousin died recently on the way out. She was 14; she got sick and they buried her in the hills."

"You don't see people on the street. The police stop young people on the street when they see them; if I see two or three people walking and not speaking to each other, I know they are Albanians."

She added: "We have enough food for now. Café Corzo, where we used to go for a morning cappuccino, is working, but Tiffany's [a favourite restaurant of foreigners] has been burnt down; nothing is left."  
Minoza said that in spite of the terror wrought against the Albanians in Nato's name, she and her family still supported the bombing campaign.

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## Call for ban on all neo-Nazi groups after nail bombings

ANTI-RACIST campaigners and community leaders called for neo-Nazi groups such as Combat 18 to be banned yesterday in response to the two bomb attacks on Brixton and Brick Lane in London.

Civil rights activists said the Government's plan to reform the 1967 Race Relations Act after the Lawrence report does not go far enough. They called for immediate action to make membership of far-right groups illegal.

Combat 18 has claimed responsibility for the two bombings, which injured 45 people. Kumar Murshid, chairman of the National Assembly Against Racism, said: "Most people would be very surprised to know that Combat 18 and other groups like that are not illegal. They clearly exist to incite violence and they should be banned."

The call came as it was revealed that a group called the White Wolves, suspected of the bombings and said to be an off-

BY KIM SENGUPTA

shoot of Combat 18, has sent death threats to Jewish community leaders in Manchester. Black, Asian and Jewish public figures and organisations received such threats before the Brixton attack.

A spokesman for the Jewish Community Security Trust in Manchester said: "The risk has to be taken seriously. We are liaising with the police and other ethnic minority communities in the city... a pattern is emerging, first it was the blacks, then Asians and the Jews could be the next on the list."

Yesterday the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told the Commons that hunting the racist bombers was the police's number one task. "Whilst the perpetrators of this violence remain at large there is plainly a risk that they may strike again. The police are pursuing the investigations of these bombings and protection of the public with the utmost vigour."



A shopkeeper reaching up to remove a six-inch nail from his shopfront in Brick Lane yesterday

But Bangladeshi community leaders accused the police of failing to provide adequate protection and said the force had been negligent in closing Brick Lane's police station on Saturday afternoon. They also accused the police of being slow to arrive at the blast scene.

Shohique Choudhury, chairman of the Bangladeshi Welfare Association, said: "The Brick Lane police station is situated

opposite where the bomb went off and in our opinion, the local police have been negligent in their endeavours to protect the local community even though they knew that a spiteful, racially motivated campaign was in the midst of London. Contrary to first reports, the police were not at the scene of the crime immediately; they came some time afterwards."

Police said the police station was open every third Saturday, because past experience had shown that it was under-used. Superintendent Rose Fitzpatrick of Bethnal Green police said: "We understand the concern about the vulnerability of the community in this part of London. We had increased police patrols before this event and we have increased them since the event."

Yesterday, police confirmed they were called on Saturday evening by the landlord of The Alma pub, in Spellman Street, near Brick Lane, after five white men came in to "gloat" about the bombing and make racist comments.

Stephen Kane, 52, said: "They were strangers, there was no reason for them to be there, and they were seriously abusive. I asked the police to come and help and they were happy to do so."

The White Wolves have printed pamphlets advocating attacks on ethnic minorities to provoke a backlash against the

white population. This, the group claims, will lead to the far-right's hoped-for race war. Black, Asian and Jewish communities across Britain, in the meantime, are preparing their defences after police warnings that further attacks are likely. Suresh Grover, of the Southall Monitoring Group, said volunteers would patrol the west London suburb, which has a large Punjabi population.

Mr Grover added that moves were under way to organise similar operations outside London in areas thought to be vulnerable to racist attacks.

Muhammad Ali, marketing manager of the Black Development Agency in Bristol, said: "We are all appalled by what has happened in London. We are anxious, we need to know what is going on."

Jewish community groups said they would link with Asian and black organisations to exchange information and work out strategies to protect themselves from neo-fascists.

## Police body's anti-racism 'insensitive'

BLACK POLICE officers reacted with fury yesterday to an "inappropriate and insensitive" anti-racist poster campaign launched by the Police Federation. The Black Police Association boycotted the launch and said the campaign, which deliberately uses shock tactics, could backfire by offending many black and Asian people.

The posters, to be displayed at police stations, show images of black and Asian people with racially stereotypical slogans. One shows a black man with the question: "Been Mugged?" Underneath the picture is the advice: "Tell him - he's a police officer". Another reads: "What do you call a black man in a BMW?" A third poster shows an Asian woman with the slogan: "Open All Hours?". A smaller caption reads: "The Police Service has to be".

The association also attacked the timing of the initiative, which comes amid a national race terror campaign and less than two months after the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report concluded that the police service was "institutionally racist". Inspector Paul Wilson, the chairman, said: "We have not got a problem with the message. It's the messenger. The Police Federation has a very poor image with the black

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

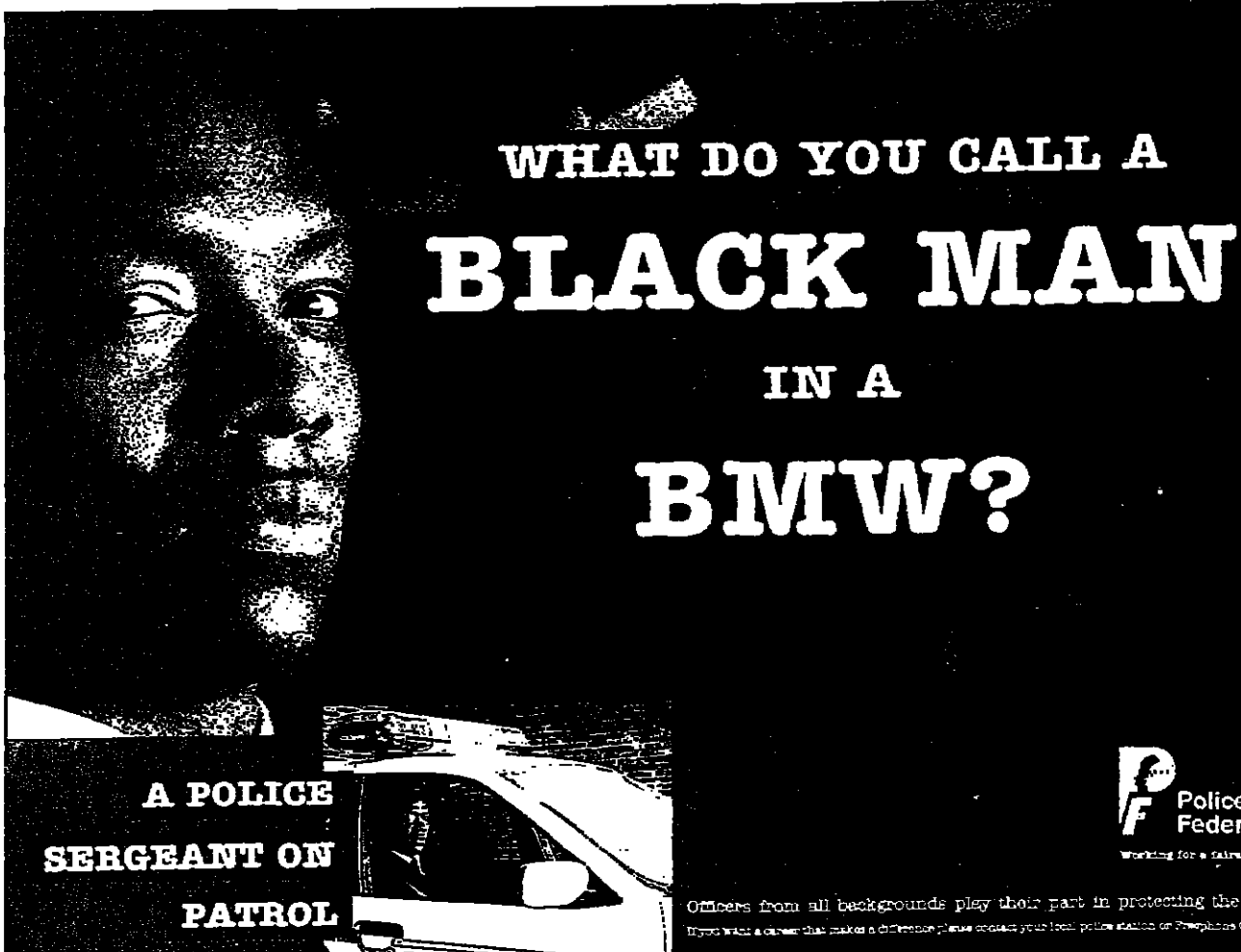
community. During the Stephen Lawrence inquiry it was most intransigent, defensive and adversarial."

Inspector Wilson added: "Do we really need a poster campaign depicting racial stereotypes produced by all people, the Police Federation."

But speaking at the launch of the £20,000 campaign, the Police Federation's chairman, Fred Broughton, described the initiative as "a ground-breaking step". He said that the police service was "confused and divided" over race relations. The posters would challenge passive racism and reassure ethnic minority communities.

"Our reputation has suffered, we must restore confidence," he said. "Black and Asian police officers and minority communities need reassurance. They remain to be convinced that we mean what we say about fairness."

Mr Broughton said he realised that the posters would be seen as "provocative" and accepted they may not be well-received by all black and Asian people. "Whatever you think of them, like them or loathe them, they will generate interest, generate controversy and generate discussion," he said.



One of the Police Federation posters. Black officers have 'no problem with the message. It's the messenger'

Mr Broughton said the federation had informed black and Asian community leaders of the content of the campaign and been given "no negative vibes".

The four people featured in the posters are not police officers but a professional basketball player, a dancer, an actor and a medical student. Real black officers were not used in the pictures because such a high-profile campaign could limit their chances of working

undercover later in their careers, Mr Broughton said.

He said he was "disappointed" that the association had declined an invitation to attend the launch but said the two organisations had been holding regular talks in the past six months on race issues.

Less than 2 per cent of the 125,000 police officers who are in the federation come from minority communities.

Bob Purkiss, chairman of the

legal committee of the Commission for Racial Equality, said he understood the association's concerns but still welcomed the campaign. "The 'do nothing' option was not on the table," he said. "[The Police Federation] are trying to address their collective failure in the past." Mr Purkiss said that to have delayed the campaign launch because of the nail bombings in would have sent "the wrong message".

The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Norman Bettison, admitted yesterday that his force was "institutionally racist" after spending six months gathering evidence on bigotry in the ranks.

Mr Bettison said a new task force had been set up to re-investigate more than 300 cases in which race had been an issue and he hinted that a number of officers could be sacked for their racist views.

London	3 nights	North of England	3 nights
London - Kensington	£141	Bolton (The Beaumont)	£93
London - Regent's Park	£152	Carlisle	£95
London - Bloomsbury	£127	Chester	£110
London - Hampstead	£127	Grimby	£89
London - Heathrow	£103	Haydock	£106
London - Gatwick	£114	Hull	£86
		Hull Marina	£114
		Leeds/Bradford	£110
		Leeds/Binghouse	£103
		Leeds/Selby	£95
		Leeds (The Queen's)	£86
		Liverpool (The Gladstone)	£124
		Manchester	£85
		Manchester Airport	£95
		Manchester Airport	£114
		Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£95
		Preston	£95
		Sheffield	£93
		Teesside	£89
		Wakefield	£86
		Warrington/Runcorn	£91
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		York	£101
		East of England	3 nights
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		Cambridge	£110
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		Coventry	£91
		Derby/Burton	£99
		Gloucester	£105
		High Wycombe	£105
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		Lincoln	£106
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		Cardiff	£93
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		Glasgow City	£97
		Glasgow (Ersine Bridge)	£101
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### IN BRIEF

#### School union splits over Woodhead

THE NATIONAL Association of Head Teachers has split over its decision to press for a criminal prosecution of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, for allegedly lying over a relationship with a young woman. More than 30 members have quit to set up a rival union.

#### Hillsborough hearing adjourned

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS against former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and former Superintendent Bernard Murray, facing private prosecutions over the Hillsborough disaster, were adjourned by Leeds magistrates yesterday until July.

#### Anorexia can lead to incontinence

ANOREXIA CAN trigger incontinence, according to a study published yesterday. Researchers found that two-thirds of women with anorexia nervosa in two London hospitals also had unstable bladders, said the report in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*.

#### Woman's jaw regrown inside lip

A WOMAN'S shattered jaw has been regrown in a pioneering operation. The 45-year-old's mouth was rebuilt at a Wakefield hospital by growing new bone inside her bottom lip. Her jaw was shattered in a car crash in 1977.

#### Pop-star apologises to Pope

SINEAD O'CONNOR, pop star turned priest, apologised yesterday for once ripping up a portrait of the Pope. The singer became Mother Bernadette Mary at a ceremony held by the breakaway Latin Tridentine church last week.

#### DAVID AARONOVITCH

If China's police cannot prevent nail bombs, how can our officers do better?



IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW

PAGE 3

## Dual vaccine holds hope for fight against HIV

SCIENTISTS STUDYING Aids believe they have made a breakthrough in the 10-year quest to find a vaccine against HIV.

However, the development was marred by a discovery by a second team of researchers, who found that HIV can lie dormant for a lifetime.

A team led by Harriet Robinson, chief of microbiology at Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, found that a combination of two types of vaccine can protect monkeys against HIV.

Although the vaccine does not protect the monkeys against infection - the aim of conventional immunisation - it ap-

pears to limit the virus's ability to replicate within the body.

"This holds promise for the development of a vaccine capable of seriously reducing viral replication and thus stemming the transmission of Aids," Dr Robinson said.

The three-year research project experimented with several types of vaccines and two different ways of delivering them to the immune system.

Dr Robinson found the most successful approach was first to "prime" the immune system with a vaccine based on the ge-

netic material of a hybrid virus created from HIV and SIV, the simian immunodeficiency virus.

The next stage was to inject a vaccine made from incorporating parts of the hybrid virus into a pox virus, which can invade the monkey's cells but does not proliferate.

Results of the study, published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, show that the vaccine successfully limited the replication of the virus when it was injected three times over a 62-week period.

The scientists were unable to detect the virus in the blood of vaccinated animals, in contrast to unvaccinated monkeys.

Although the findings are promising for vaccine development, other research indicates that it will be practically impossible to eliminate HIV totally from an infected person.

Scientists from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore have found that HIV can evade anti-Aids drugs by hiding in a dormant state for years within cells of the immune system.

"This doesn't mean that a cure for HIV is impossible, but it is an obstacle. And it emphasises that patients need to stay on their medication, possibly for the rest of their lives," said Robert Siliciano, a senior Aids researcher at Johns Hopkins.

## Bordeaux prolongs active life

DRINKERS KEEN to ensure they will be enjoying their favourite Châteaux into old age should select wines made from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape, a heart expert advises today.

Jean Paul Broustet, of Hart-Leveque Hospital in the Bordeaux region of France, says in the journal *Heart* that the Cabernet Sauvignon grape has particularly large amounts of the anti-oxidant resveratrol,

which alters the balance between "good" and "bad" cholesterol in the blood, helping to prevent heart attacks.

Even when diluted 100 times, red wine is still a more powerful anti-oxidant than is vitamin E. This might account for the "French paradox" - that although Mediterranean popu-

lations have high-fat diets, they suffer low rates of heart disease.

The longer the grapes stay on the stem, the higher the concentration of tannins - bitter agents in the wine. Tannins, combined with alcohol, reduce the "stickiness" of the blood cells known as platelets, thus lowering the risk of clots forming in the blood vessels.

One study, which involved feeding dogs Châteaufort du

Pape and grape juice, showed that the wine was far more effective at reducing constrictions in blood-flow caused by a sudden aggregation of platelets.

Dr Broustet suggests, however, that the beneficial effects of a good red wine have more to do with taste and bouquet - and the good company enjoyed while drinking. He blames problems such as cirrhosis of the liver on over-indulgence.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

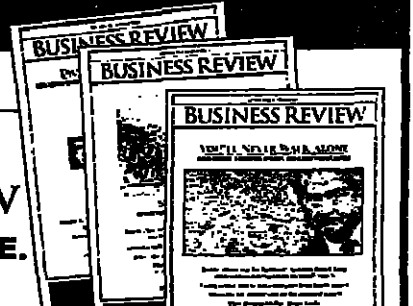
'People say you're a misogynist.  
How do you plead?'

DAVID BAILEY ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

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PLUS:

THE 12-PAGE  
BUSINESS REVIEW  
ABOUT BUSINESS PEOPLE.  
FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE



## Scores of trawlers 'at risk of sinking'

DOZENS of trawlers fishing around Britain's coast are inherently dangerous and receive safety approval by government inspectors without adequate checks on their stability, according to a confidential accident report into the deaths of four trawlermen.

Since 1980, 17 beam trawlers have sunk with the loss of 29 lives. Official statistics show that this type of trawler is four times more likely to sink than other types of fishing vessel.

The British fishing fleet has more than 130 "beamer", which have two large derricks (a type of crane), enabling crew to fish on both sides of the boat simultaneously. They are highly profitable: in the port of Newlyn in Cornwall they account for two-thirds of the catch although they represent only a small proportion of the local fleet.

A damning report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) into the loss of the *Margaretha Maria*, a Dutch-built vessel from Newlyn that went down in November 1997 with the loss of four crew, raises serious concerns about safety.

The report, which has been obtained for tonight's *Channel*

By PAUL LASHMAR

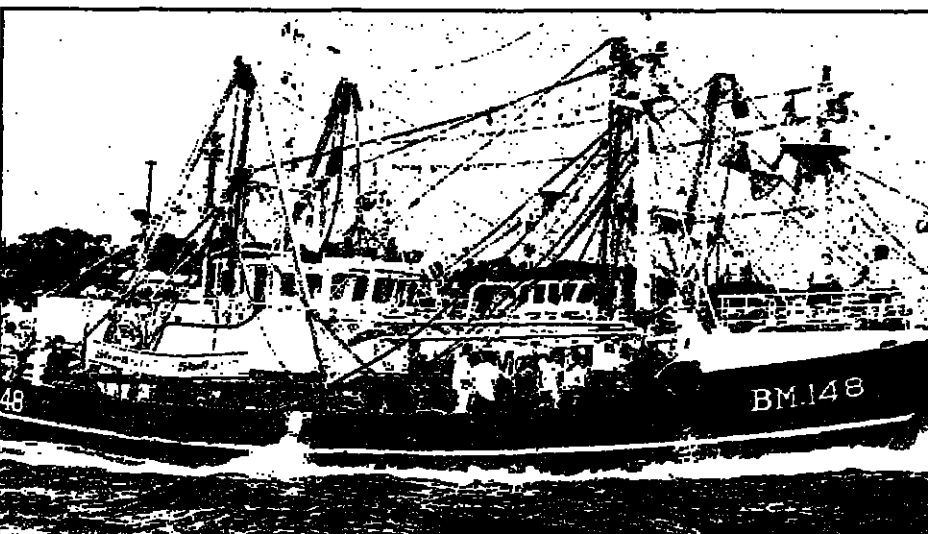
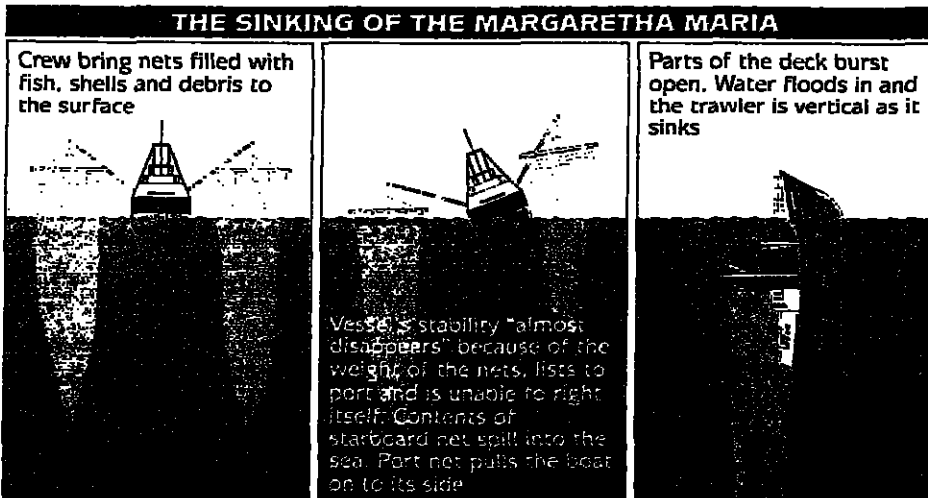
4 *News*, says: "This inquiry has revealed that the stability of beam trawlers may be dramatically reduced by normal operational movements of derricks and fishing gear."

The trawler "frequently and legitimately operated with a standard of sea-going stability substantially less than required of other types of fishing vessel".

The report continues: "With lower stability standards, safety would have been compromised", and adds that the instability of the vessel was so serious "that other vessels may be affected by a similar amount".

Fishermen have been aware that beamers can be unstable at the key moments when the derricks raise the nets filled with fish, but they rely on their skill to prevent accidents.

The report, to be published in the summer, says that the *Margaretha Maria* probably sank because of a large weight of debris in her raised nets, which made her unstable. Shelter doors on deck were left open but while this would have made her sink more quickly, it would not have caused the initial capsizing.



A report from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch blames the inherent instability of beam trawlers for the sinking of the *Margaretha Maria*, left. Moira Todd, (right) with John and Kerry Todd, campaigned tirelessly for an investigation into the accident in which her husband, son and the boat's two other crew were drowned

The board says that urgent stability tests should be carried out on a range of beamers as they are fishing. Government inspectors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) currently certify beam trawlers for stability without testing how they react under real working conditions.

Tonight's *Channel 4 News* reveals that beam trawlers are four times more likely to sink than other fishing vessels. In 1997, 134 of the 7,779 registered

fishing boats were beam trawlers. Since 1990 a total of 253 fishing vessels have been lost, of which 17 were beam trawlers.

The *Margaretha Maria* left Newlyn harbour on a fine November afternoon with four men on board, including John Todd and his son Kerry, 24. Conditions were calm and the crew was due to return two days later. But the trawler disappeared without trace.

Three months later, the body of the skipper, Robbie Holmes,

was found, but the other three men are thought to lie with the trawler on the ocean bed.

Their relatives mounted a campaign for an investigation into the safety of beam trawlers. The board's report states that MCA inspectors do not test beam trawlers' stability when the boats are at their most vulnerable - raising tons of fish in two nets using derricks on either side of the boat.

Moira Todd blames the agency for the loss of her husband and son. She said: "The MCA are charged with carrying out stability tests, sending these boats to sea in a safe condition, and they are not doing it. It's like doing an MOT test in a car without testing the brakes or testing that the wheels are on."

"The three wives were determined to find out the truth. Over the past 18 months we've put constant pressure on the MAIB."

She remembered the last

time she saw her husband and son: "It was a fine Tuesday afternoon, about 4.30pm. They wouldn't have gone out if the weather had been bad because they were always careful, especially with that boat."

"They were supposed to have left a day earlier but they were delayed because of some problem - there were always problems with the boat."

"Kerry had been fishing for two years after he left university, to save up enough money

to go backpacking. The accident happened six weeks after he got back. He was making a bit of money before deciding what direction his life should take."

The body of Mr Holmes was spotted in fishing grounds 50 miles south-west of Lizard Point in February last year. A naval ship located the wreck of the *Margaretha Maria* on the seabed about five miles from where Mr Holmes' body was discovered.

## Scientists use living cells to create 'bionic' kidney

SCIENTISTS HAVE come a step closer to creating the first "bionic" organs by growing living kidney cells inside synthetic tubes to filter the blood of laboratory animals suffering from renal failure.

It is the first artificial kidney to use living tissue to mimic the functions of real organs and its development could alleviate the chronic shortage of kidneys for transplant operations. Scientists grew the cells taken from a pig's kidney on the inside surfaces of the hollow fibres used in kidney dialysis machines, which filter blood of toxic substances.

The cells stuck to the fibre - which is about as thick as a human hair - and proliferated to form a continuous lining of living material through which the filtered blood flowed. The research team intends to test

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

the device on the first human patients later this year. The experiment demonstrated that the cultured kidney cells secrete vital substances into the filtered blood of the animals. These compounds are lacking when a kidney patient undergoes conventional dialysis treatment, a shortcoming that is thought to increase the risk of severe side-effects.

Medical researchers believe the study marks an important breakthrough in the attempts to find an alternative to kidney dialysis, which fails to save the lives of more than half the patients who need the treatment after suffering from acute renal failure. They also hope to develop the technique further to manufacture fully functioning

kidneys for transplant operations by growing living cells on a man-made "scaffold" designed to hold together the tissues. David Humes, who led the team at the University of Michigan, has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for clinical trials in humans, which are expected to start this autumn. "The project falls into a larger framework of research aimed at making bio-artificial kidneys that could be implanted into patients," said Dan Cutler, a spokesman for Dr Humes' laboratory.

The team reports in next month's issue of the journal *Nature Biotechnology* that the cells were able to secrete vital substances back into the blood of a dog suffering from acute renal failure, something that was not possible with conventional kidney dialysis. "What is

new and different is that Dr Humes has demonstrated that he can grow these cells and that they can perform the function of releasing metabolites [biological substances] as they would in a natural situation," Mr Cutler said. Although the living kidney cells were grown in a kidney dialysis machine outside the body, the scientists hope to be able to culture them in a kidney-sized artificial organ, which could then be transplanted permanently into a patient with renal failure.

Because the cells were encapsulated inside hollow fibres they were protected against attack from the body's immune defences, making organ rejection less likely. Clark Colton, professor of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said it was an important development.

## Channel 5 play ratings joker by reviving 'It's A Knockout'

By PAUL MCCANN  
Media News Editor

THE DAYS when helpless, wheezing laughter and saturated people dressed as snails were the biggest thing on television are long gone. But Channel 5 is hoping that, 17 years on, the country is still silly enough to enjoy *It's A Knockout*.

Stuart Hall is to return to the screen this autumn as the maniacal presenter of television's most chaotic game show. Channel 5 announced at the Montreux Television Festival that it would be pitting everyone from glee clubs to teams of accountants against each other in a series of silly challenges, which will remain largely unchanged from the show's heyday in the Seventies.



Stuart Hall in an old episode of 'It's A Knockout'

For those too young to remember, *It's A Knockout* was an outdoor game show that entailed adults in preposterous costumes taking part in elaborate relay races. At its peak, the show pulled in more than 18 million viewers and if Channel

5 can get a fraction of that, it will be worth the embarrassment of disinterring a programme that gives the lie to the notion that British television has dumbed down in recent years.

Channel 5 is to keep the show domestic for a year before

trying to revive that emblem of pan-European co-operation, *Jour Sans Frontières*. Most aspects of the old programme will be resurrected, including "the joker" - which doubles the score on a chosen event - an updated version of the Ronnie Hazellhurst-penned theme tune and lots of water.

The producers of the show are undaunted by its past: "We will remain faithful to the ethos of the programme," said Robin Greene, of the production company Ronin, which has bought the rights to the show from Mr Hall. "We will update it and give it a more contemporary feel, but we certainly don't want to make it too funky and young. We want all the family to tune in."

Leading article.  
Review, page 3

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# Dignified silence won't do if you can state the obvious

ONE OF the things that the House of Commons exists for is to provide a venue for statements of the obvious. It wouldn't have been very difficult to predict, for instance, that the Conservative Party, as a body, might deplore the murder of Jill Dando but, just in case there are voters out there who are in doubt about where they might stand on this matter, Sir Norman Fowler went on the record at the beginning of questions to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, anxious not to be left behind, leapt up to confirm that Labour would obviously like to associate themselves with Sir Norman's sentiments. MPs on both

sides of the house then murmured to indicate that they too could be counted among those who were against the gratuitous killing of popular television personalities. There is nothing very disreputable about this - it is simply an institutional expression of the human instinct to say: "Have you heard? Isn't it dreadful?" But there is a whisper of political calculation too. Dignified silence isn't really an option, given that it can so easily be interpreted as indifference or even worse, a lack of awareness of what everybody else is talking about. So when Mr Straw later delivered a statement on the recent bombings in Brixton

and Brick Lane it was not because he had anything very surprising to say (these were "mindless crimes", the police are pursuing the perpetrators with "utmost vigour", the Government will not tolerate racism), but because not to have said anything would have looked oddly laconic.

In between these two ceremonies of public utterance Tony Blair offered his own variation on the theme of ritual pronouncement, with a statement on the recent Nato summit. Mr Blair looked rather tired yesterday, his usual fluency at the dispatch box replaced by something more hesitant. He fre-

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

quently paused as he searched his next word for hidden weapons before allowing it to pass. In his case this was because there was a risk

he might say something substantive and he had to make sure he didn't - accidentally committing himself to some undesirable or unagreed course of action. The Tories have cannily begun to exploit this circumstance on the part of the Prime Minister, with William Hague adopting the line first taken by Michael Howard. This is to express support for Nato's operations but also respectfully to demand clarity on certain issues. In the reasonably secure knowledge that they won't get it and thus be forced to express a binding opinion that they will have to stand by. If all goes well in the war they will be able

to say that they loyally supported it all along. If things turn rancid they can point to their astute and farsighted questions, asked but fatally never answered.

Chart-topper among those put yesterday was one about whether Russian ships would be intercepted as part of the proposed oil embargo and what would happen if they declined to pull over to the marine equivalent of the hard shoulder. Mr Blair doesn't have a good answer to this question, which is one of the reasons he had returned from Washington without a clear agreement from his Nato allies. Instead, he explained, someone has

been "tasked" to look into the matter and would be reporting back soon - presumably when everyone's attention has moved elsewhere. In the meantime MPs indulged themselves by asking it again and again - either because they enjoyed the apocalyptic frisson it delivers or because they liked embarrassing Mr Blair. His final appearance was from Alice Mahon, who delivered it in tones that suggested she alone had spotted a crucial difficulty. Mr Blair let his exasperation show - stating the obvious may be a Parliamentary privilege but even here there are limits to the number of times you can do it.

## Portillo attacks Hague's relaunch

MICHAEL PORTILLO attacked William Hague's relaunch of the Tories as a "caring" party on public services and warned yesterday that the exercise was doomed to fail.

The former cabinet minister and idol of the party's Thatcherite wing scuppered the Conservative leader's attempt to end Tory divisions over the rejection of free-market solutions in education, health and welfare, announced last week by the deputy leader, Peter Lilley.

Mr Portillo scathingly accused Mr Hague of seeking to copy Tony Blair's repositioning of New Labour while he was Opposition leader. He advised the Tory leader not to "follow fashion" and dismissed claims by his aides that the relaunch was his equivalent of Mr Blair's ditching of Clause Four.

Warning that mere words were not enough, Mr Portillo declared that Mr Blair had

### CONSERVATIVE PARTY

BY ANDREW GRUCE  
Political Editor

matched them with "symbolic actions" such as abolishing Clause Four and renouncing Labour's support for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

"It is not easy for the Conservatives now to find a symbolic action that will persuade people that the National Health Service would be safe with them."

If Lady Thatcher's high spending on health and John Major's real concern for public services have not convinced them, it is unlikely that a speech by Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, will make the difference," said Mr Portillo.

He pointed out that Labour had "heaved overboard thoroughly discredited ideas, including state ownership and trade-union power".

Challenging Mr Hague's



Michael Portillo warned William Hague not to 'ditch policies that succeeded so convincingly that they were adopted by our opponents'

strategy of "concede and move on", he said the parallel with Labour was inexact. "You cannot ditch policies that succeeded so convincingly that they were adopted by our opponents, and much of the free world," he said.

Mr Portillo's intervention will anger Mr Hague. Although the former defence secretary has normally been loyal to Mr

Hague, his comments will be seen as an attempt to distance himself from the Tory leader at a time when Mr Hague is under increasing fire from within his own party.

Yesterday, Alan Clark, the veteran MP and former minister, compounded Mr Hague's problems by describing the controversy as "deplorable". He said: "I think the whole

row looks bad and shows how incompetent we are being led."

An unrepentant Mr Hague declared that he would press on with his drive to redefine his party. He admitted on BBC radio that there had been some "lively discussion" in his Shadow Cabinet but said: "I am not afraid of controversy."

He insisted the Shadow Cab-

inet had now rallied behind the new approach to public services. One of the members who criticised it last week, Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative spokesman on social security, endorsed the new policy last night, saying it left him "free" to pursue plans to reduce the "dependency culture" in the welfare state through reform which "involves and embraces

the voluntary and private sector".

Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, confirmed that the Conservative Party would stick to Labour's £40bn spending increase for health and education over the next three years if it won a general election during that period. He denied that the leadership had performed a U-turn.

## Foster denies quitting contest

LIB DEM LEADERSHIP  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

DON FOSTER, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, has dismissed speculation he is poised to pull out of the party's undeclared leadership race.

Mr Foster will instead rival Menzies Campbell as the candidate most dedicated to continuing Paddy Ashdown's strategy of closer co-operation with Labour. The 52-year-old MP for Bath has an extensive campaign team in place and is determined to be the main challenger to the front-runner, Charles Kennedy.

Mr Foster's opponents had suggested he may follow the lead of Nick Harvey, another contender in favour of Lib-Lab links, to stand aside and back Mr Campbell. Mr Harvey said last week that the phoney war to succeed Mr Ashdown had become "ridiculous" because there were so many potential candidates for the top post.

But Mr Foster believes he has an excellent chance of gathering enough support to prevent a Kennedy victory.

His supporters claim that, as a Bath MP, he has a better chance of winning over the party's 25,000 members in the South-west.

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## Blair rejects charge of being Nato's main hawk

TONY BLAIR rejected claims that he was Nato's most "hawkish" leader yesterday but warned that the economic and military campaign against Yugoslavia would be increased until President Slobodan Milosevic backed down.

In a Commons statement on his return from the Nato summit in Washington, the Prime Minister said there was no question of compromise with the Serbian leader over the alliance's demands for restoring peace to Kosovo.

Mr Blair reiterated his stance that although it remained diffi-

### KOSOVO

BY PAUL WAUGH

cult to stage a land force invasion against "undegraded" Serb resistance. Mr Milosevic had no veto over Nato's actions.

To implement Nato's "basic and unalterable demands", its military planners had been told to expand the range of targets for bombing and devise means of enforcing an oil embargo.

Mr Blair told MPs that what had impressed him most at the summit was the need to protect the frontline states surrounding Yugoslavia. He warned that

"grave consequences" would follow if Mr Milosevic attempted to destabilise the region. "It is not an aim of military action to remove Milosevic but, while Milosevic remains in power, the security of the region is more difficult," he said.

Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow and a long-standing critic of the Nato action, said: "Some of us are utterly appalled that he should have been the hawk in Washington."

The Prime Minister replied that everyone who believed in Labour principles would feel a "sense of betrayal" if Nato had

not acted. "In respect of being a hawk or not a hawk, it's nothing to do with that. Having taken this action, we have got to see it through," he said.

William Hague, the Tory leader, said his party would continue to support the action, hinting that he would back the use of ground troops and that an oil embargo "may well be justified".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, suggested Nato may already have "left it too late" to deploy enough ground troops to form a credible land invasion force.

## Talks face summer deadline

EFFORTS continued to try to restore momentum to the flagging Northern Ireland peace process yesterday, with political meetings in Belfast and warnings that the absence of an early breakthrough could spell disaster.

There were stirrings of interest in a compromise plan advanced by the SDLP leader John Hume in an effort to bridge the gap between Sinn Fein and David Trimble's Ulster

### NORTHERN IRELAND

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

Unionists on arms decommissioning. Both elements have been critical of the idea, which involves Sinn Fein promising to leave a new executive if the IRA returns to violence, but both have stopped short of outright rejection.

On the Unionist side it is clear the preferred option is

that of the Hillsborough declaration which Tony Blair and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, produced earlier this month, envisaging republican decommissioning in the context of an act of reconciliation.

The declaration has lost ground because of opposition from Sinn Fein and loyalist elements, with reservations expressed by minor political parties. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern appear ready to travel to

Belfast if the prospect of a deal should appear.

Parties warn of the dangers of "parking" the peace process for summer, with a potentially divisive European election campaign and possible marching season confrontations likely to add to tensions.

In Ligoniel, north Belfast, a Catholic woman and her 14-year-old son escaped unhurt after a grenade attack on their home.

### British aircraft drop 242 bombs

A TOTAL of 242 bombs have been dropped by British aircraft from the beginning of Nato's military action against Yugoslavia up to 22 April, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence disclosed.

### School books

PRIMARY SCHOOLS received three separate grants worth a total of £3,000 each for reading books during 1998, while each secondary school received two grants totalling £2,000. Schools minister Estelle Morris said.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Green light for defence missile

BRITAIN IS to go ahead, with France and Italy, with a new naval air defence missile system and would move quickly to place the contract for the development of the Principal Anti-Air Missile System (PAAMS), the Defence minister, John Speller, announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

### Summer tours of Parliament

VISITORS COULD be charged up to £6.50 each to tour the Houses of Parliament during the summer recess under plans put forward by MPs.

### Legal seasoning

THE LORD Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, dismissed the Law Society's criticism of the Government's legal aid reforms, saying its comments should be taken "with a pinch of salt".

### Today's agenda

Commons, 2.30pm: Questions to Scottish

### THE HOUSE



Ministers and Lord Chancellor's Department. Finance Bill, committee. Short debate on passenger rail services in Wansbeck, Northumberland. Lords, 2.30pm: House of Lords Bill, committee. Parliamentary elections (Northern Ireland, amendment) regulations.





Sean Connery enjoying a comment in Alex Salmond's speech to a Scottish National Party rally in Edinburgh yesterday

Reuters

## Connery loses his cool with media

AS 007 he made saving the world look simple. But recast as the Saviour of the Scots, Sean Connery struggled to maintain the famous James Bond cool at an SNP rally in Edinburgh yesterday.

Perhaps saving the world was never this tough. With 10 days to go to elections to the new Scottish Parliament, polls show the Scottish National Party's vote plummeting. The pressure is on "Scotland's most famous living Scot", with "Scotland forever" tattooed on his 68-year-old arm, who is the beleaguered SNP's ace card.

That explains why the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, who shared the stage with Mr Connery, slipped him the occasional glance of adoration - or desperation - and why the Big Screen's sexiest pensioner looked so peculiarly ill at ease performing before an audience of just 300. Mr Connery seemed to find the 45-minute wait for his lines excruciating.

Nerves were betrayed in the sweat he sucked, regular and unnecessary clearing of the throat and hands that definitely trembled. But once he took centre stage the old gravel-voiced charm surfaced. And when he turned on the media, so was the menace of so many screen roles.

He was reading his speech, he said, because he was unable to trust his emotions. "I have

BY MARY BRAID

never witnessed," the actor explained, "such shameful abuse by the Scottish media ... and I am angry." The crowd had already given Mr Connery a rapturous welcome. But his attack on the press brought the wildest applause.

Last week, Mr Connery, in Edinburgh with a posse of American TV and film executives to promote his new film and the dream of a Scottish film industry, found himself in a rabid, aggressive pose on the front of Scotland's dominant tabloid, the Daily Record. The headline suggested Mr Connery, lampooned regularly as the Member for the Bahamas because his exile there means he does not qualify for a vote, had just seen the latest opinion polls. Mr Connery says the picture was a week old and that he was set up.

Yesterday a stony-faced Mr Connery warned that media bias threatened the democracy of the Holyrood Parliament, just as "control freaks" had deflated the enthusiasm of the 1997 devolution vote with "fear and intimidation".

He was undoubtedly referring to the negative election campaign run by Labour, a new Connery enemy since the party reportedly denied him a knighthood last year. Earlier, Mr Salmond reminded the rally

of how Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the Chancellor Gordon Brown had "scrambled to have their picture taken with Sean" in the run-up to the devolution vote.

Both Labour and the SNP have courted Mr Connery. Yet there is no conclusive evidence that endorsement, even by 007, cuts with the public. In an entirely unscientific and narrow (four men on the street) poll conducted by The Independent yesterday, 100 per cent of those questioned said Mr Connery's appearance at the SNP rally would not affect their vote.

"He's been out of the country for decades," said one. "How does he know what's good for me?" Another suggested that nationalist sentiment seemed to increase with the number of years in exile, and the distance the exile lived from home. The Bahamas, he pointed out, was a long way away, and Mr Connery had been there a very long time.

Even for some party insiders the emphasis on Mr Connery only exposes the flimsiness of the SNP's election campaign. But the delegates at least seemed to be buoyed by 007's appearance. When party veteran Winnie Ewing was kissed by Mr Connery there were a few gasps. Would Winnie ever wash again?

Planet Hollywood, Review Front

## SNP winning argument but losing support

THE SCOTTISH National Party gleaned a few crumbs of comfort yesterday from signs that public opinion was shifting against Nato's Kosovo bombing campaign. The latest ICM poll for The Scotsman newspaper showed support for the bombings waning slightly as backing for a land war increased.

The poll also suggested four out of five Scots supported the SNP's pledge to keep income tax the same rather than implementing Labour's planned 1p cut. But despite this, the nationalists still appeared to be heading for disaster in the vote on 6 May.

Just 29 per cent said they would support the SNP in the first vote, for an individual candidate, and 28 per cent in the second, for a party. The poll predicted Labour would receive 47 per cent of the vote in the first poll and 46 in the second.

Such a result would leave Labour with 62 seats, three short of an overall majority and two more than suggested by the previous poll two weeks ago.

It would give the SNP 38 seats, down four on the previ-

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

ous poll. On the Balkan issue, 44 per cent believed the bombing would help the people of Kosovo, down from 51 per cent in the previous poll.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, was believed to have lost support after dismissing the bombing as "unpardonable folly" but the proportion of voters who said his words would make them less likely to vote for him had dropped from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

Half of those questioned supported the use of British ground troops against the Serbs, up 2 points from 48 per cent last time. The SNP's Treasury spokesman, John Swinney, said the poll showed support for its economic policy.

The party hopes to reinforce this by publishing full details later this week after gibes from Labour that it has not produced a breakdown, as promised in its manifesto.

"The SNP is winning the key arguments in this campaign, which is why we can and must win this election for Scot-

land," Mr Swinney said. "Labour's penny bribe is hugely unpopular because people know that we cannot protect and invest in our key public services with a London Labour Tory-style tax agenda."

Meanwhile, the focus of the three other parties' campaigns turned to education, with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both promising to abolish charges for university tuition fees.

The Scottish Conservative leader, David McLetchie, said the move could be funded through a £40m cut in Scotland's £15bn public funding grant. The Conservatives also hoped to make savings by abolishing local authorities and cutting the administrative costs of schools.

The Liberal Democrats promised to find an extra £250m a year for education and health, while Labour promised to spend £42m from its Comprehensive Spending Review on 5,000 places for under-threes in Community First Steps Centres, which would offer services to both children and parents.

## Labour warns against apathy

CONCERN IS mounting at senior levels of the Labour Party that it will fail to win an overall majority in the Welsh Assembly amid signs that its leader may be denied a seat.

An increasingly anxious party headquarters in Cardiff urged members yesterday to turn out in force on 6 May, especially in the critical mid and west Wales region where Alun Michael, Tony Blair's favourite for First Secretary, heads Labour's "top-up list".

The Institute of Welsh Politics said that a detailed re-assessment of recent poll findings showed that the chances of Mr Michael being elected were "too close to call".

Peter Hain, Labour campaign co-ordinator, wrote to 5,000 members, warning them that apathy was the enemy. He said that if Labour supporters backed the party's "first past the post" candidate in their constituency, but then switched their second "top-up" vote to another party, Labour might not achieve a majority in the 60-strong assembly.

Richard Wyn Jones, director

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
AND TONY HEATH

of the Welsh institute at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, said a recent NOP poll for HTV showed Mr Michael "was in trouble". He argues that in its analysis of the survey, the television company failed fully to take into account low voter turnout. That would act against Mr Michael's chances of gaining a seat and might mean Labour failed to win Caernarfon east, a key constituency.

Dr Wyn Jones believes that Rhodri Morgan, who was defeated by Mr Michael in the election for the leadership of the party in Wales, stands a reasonable chance of becoming First Secretary. "I've seen odds of eight to one against Rhodri. If I was a betting man I'd put £100 on it," he said.

He believes all the evidence showed Plaid Cymru would become the second party in Wales, pushing the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives down the pecking order.

Tom Davies  
Review, page 4

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# 'Wife of Chinese mole was FBI spy'

A SPY scandal that threatened to convulse the United States and set back US relations with China for many years took a new turn yesterday with a claim that the wife of the chief suspect was in the pay of the FBI.

When a Taiwan-born scientist, Wen Ho Lee, was dismissed from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory last month on suspicion of spying for China, awkward questions were raised about his wife, Sylvia.

Among Mrs Lee's responsibilities were arranging tours of

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

Mrs Lee's trips to China were raised publicly last month when her husband, Wen Ho Lee, was named as the chief suspect in the alleged theft of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos, also in the Eighties. A New York Times investigation found evidence that China probably stole several secret weapons blueprints (including ones for a miniaturised nuclear warhead) from the laboratory and the thefts went unremarked for a decade until China started to produce weapons of a design uncannily similar to that of US weapons.

Government officials, intelligence officers, defence scientists and administrators were questioned and a political storm gathered, which would have caused more damage to the Clinton administration if Kosovo had not squeezed it from the headlines. The Chinese denied nuclear spying as the Chinese Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji made an official visit to Washington.

Investigators found Wen Ho Lee - who had worked at Los Alamos for 20 years - had been suspected before, but retained his top-level security clearance. Last month, he failed a lie-detector test and was said to have stonewalled FBI questions. He was dismissed. But the FBI had insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Few details of the Lees' existence suggested a lifetime of spying. They lived in a respectable suburb and neighbours called them quiet and decent. Colleagues were amazed that Wen Ho Lee could have been a spy. "He is either a very, very good actor, or he's not your man," one said.



The sign of peace as 100,000 attend a memorial service for the victims of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado

## Denver gunmen set out to kill 500 pupils, then hijack a plane

BY ANDREW GUNBEL

THE TWO teenage killers who rampaged through their suburban high school in Colorado a week ago intended to kill at least 500 students, and fantasised about blazing their way through the neighbourhood, hijacking a plane and crashing it on New York City, according to the detailed diary of their plans seized by investigators.

John Stone, the Jefferson County Sheriff, told the Denver Post and NBC's Dateline programme that only a mixture of luck, quick thinking by teachers and students, and the in-

tervention of SWAT teams who put the attackers on the defensive prevented a far greater calamity in the Denver suburb of Littleton. In the end, 15 people died, including the gunmen, and 23 were wounded seriously enough to be kept in hospital.

A large propane bomb planted in the cafeteria kitchen at Columbine High School by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold was meant to go off at the peak of the school lunch hour and start

a blaze strong enough to burn down the school. It is not clear why the bomb, made from a barbecue-type propane canister and a petrol can packed in broken glass, ball-bearings and nails, did not detonate as planned. "Once they burnt the school down, then they were just going to start ravaging the neighborhood, killing as many people as they could," Sheriff Stone said.

The diary lists details of bomb-making and gun purchases and outlines plans for the final assault. It is not clear

how much of the later stages of their scheme, such as the plane hijacking, was realistic and how much fantasy, but Harris and Klebold certainly did not expect to survive.

Sheriff Stone said an 18-year-old female friend of Klebold was being investigated on suspicion of providing a gun used in the attack, timed to coincide with Hitler's birthday. He did not name her, and investigators are still trying to establish if she knew why Klebold wanted the weapon. Unconfirmed reports say another

friend of the two boys might be the subject of investigation and has retained a lawyer.

The sheriff also blamed the parents of the pair for failing to suspect what the boys had been planning. There was a sawn-off shotgun piece in the bedroom of one boy, and explosives-making equipment elsewhere in the house.

Sheriff Stone said there was not enough evidence to press charges of criminal negligence against the parents, but he expected there would be "a raft" of civil lawsuits.

## Fury at ban on Down's skater

BY FRANCES KENNEDY  
in Rome

A DECISION to exclude a teenage boy from competitive figure skating because he suffers from Down's syndrome has provoked an outcry in Italy.

Mauro Muscas, aged 17, from Sardinia, finished third in the regional rollerskating championships earlier this month, and his club wanted him to continue in qualifiers for the national championship. But despite doctors' certificates proving he is physically up to the task, Mauro has been told he can no longer take part in any competitive skating events because of his intellectual disability.

The current law prohibits mentally disabled people from practising competitive sport except in events reserved for athletes with handicaps. Mauro, who is in his third year of high school in Cagliari, is a natural sportsman. He first took up skating at the age of nine, and spends every spare moment at the rink. The news that he could not go to the national championships has left him perplexed and sad.

Mauro's mother, Antonietta, vowed she would fight for her son's right to fair treatment. "If this is the law, it can be changed. Mauro was penalised at birth by having an extra chromosome but he should not be further discriminated against," she said.

"Thanks to sport Mauro's condition has improved tremendously and when he skates he forgets that he has Down's syndrome. Until now he has always measured himself against other 'normal' sportsmen so why should that change just because he is having success?"

The 1978 law appears to have been passed with the aim of protecting people with mental handicaps from the potential psychological hazards of competitive sport.

Italy's Health Minister, Rosy Bindi, has promised to review the legislation to remove any aspects that could be anachronistic or discriminatory against those with disabilities.



Wen Ho Lee: Dismissed

the top-secret laboratories for visiting Chinese delegations. She was also said to have made several trips to conferences in China, one with her husband, which seemed to be outside her competence.

But Newsweek magazine says Mrs Lee was just doing her job - being paid by the FBI to help to keep track of visiting Chinese scientists and compile profiles. The magazine said in the Eighties the FBI was thought by the Chinese to be recruited by the Chinese to spy on her boss at Los Alamos, a laser specialist, but decided she was loyal and dropped the inquiry.

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**ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE**  
His Bharatiya Janata Party squeaked into power last year. Many cheered when government staged nuclear tests, but euphoria faded as food prices rocketed.



**JAYARAM JAYALALITHA**  
If the next election results in as finely balanced government as the last, she could hold power with her MPs from the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.



**SONIA GANDHI**  
As president of Congress, Sonia Gandhi has helped the party to improve its standing at state level. Her name and her widowhood help to pull in votes in the countryside.



**JYOTI BASU**  
The communist Chief Minister of West Bengal, Congress rejected the attempt at the weekend to thrust him into the breach and make him prime minister.



**LALOO PRASAD YADAV**  
Chief minister of Bihar until removed last year because of corruption charges. Controls the Rashtriya Janata Dal party, which could hold balance of power.

# Collapse of coalition talks propels India into election

By PETER POPHAM in Delhi

INDIA, THE stop-go state, went into stop mode yesterday when party leaders and the President admitted failure in their attempts to find an alternative to the government toppled by a single vote 10 days ago. The caretaker Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, asked the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha (House of Commons) and elections will be called shortly - India's third in three years.

After more than a week of feverish talks between parties, India's political stalemate proved terminal. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which headed the fragile coalition and lost a vote of confidence on 17 April by 270 votes to 269, was unable to lure even a single MP across the barricades.



Visitors leaving the parliament building in Delhi yesterday as the country faces another election Reuters

At state level Mr Yadav's party was locked in battle with Congress and he was forced to renege on his promise. After Congress admitted failure, the Third Force, which as the United Front ran the previous government, thrust forward the West Bengal communist leader Jyoti Basu as its choice for prime minister. With support from Congress, it

might have worked. But Congress decided that even a mid-term election - the 5th such election since 1979 - was preferable to such a messy fudge. Thus the BJP's first extended spell in government ended in confusion. The surprise is that it lasted as long as it did, and that was Mrs Gandhi's doing. From the start, the prima donna of Tamil Nadu, Jayaram Jay-

alitha, had threatened to withdraw her vital 18 MPs if the government failed to do her bidding. Mr Vajpayee did what was politically feasible to keep her happy, but her demands were outrageous. Frustrated, she might have pulled the plug at any moment, but for more than a year Mrs Gandhi gave her no encouragement. Only in the past month did Congress ap-

parently lose its nerve and tip Ms Jayalalitha the wink. Congress had declined to act before because India was fed up with one election after another, and Mrs Gandhi insisted her party cultivate an image of responsibility in contrast to its former rampant opportunism. This posture lent the BJP-led government an air of solidity it did not deserve.

Yet in other respects the BJP had earned a turn at national power. In the minds of millions of Indians, particularly among the urban lower middle class, it represented the only clear-cut alternative to Congress, which has ruled India for most of the past 50 years. The BJP's leaders were seen as patriotic and untainted by scandal. For the common man, the new government did exactly the right thing by staging the nuclear tests last May, soon after it came to power. But their inexperience in operating the levers of government was palpable. Towards the end of the year the price of onions and tomatoes - two staples - shot up. Many believe this was due to hoarding by BJP supporters bent on making money while the BJP sun shone and confident (rightly so) that the government would not dare to act against them.

The other stain on the BJP's record was the licence given to fanatical groups on the extreme right of the nationalist movement to attack Christians with impunity. In four key states Congress support is on the rise. For millions in the countryside Sonia, despite her Italian origin, is a Gandhi and a figure around whom the party has united. That is enough.

## Peking may outlaw cult behind rally

"IN OUR office there are two people who are members; they spend a lot of time meditating," said a Peking government seamstress yesterday. With police still out in force around central Peking, many ordinary Chinese had not heard of Sunday's silent protest, when more than 10,000 members of the Falun Gong cult, practitioners of the martial art qigong, assembled outside the Communist Party headquarters. But almost everyone seemed to know someone who followed the cult.

The extraordinary demonstration had dispersed by midnight, with cold winds and driving rain aiding the police as they gently herded the thousands from the area. But while the protest ended as peacefully as it had been conducted, inside the party leadership compound at Zhongnanhai anxious officials must have wondered how a network claiming 60 million followers could have organised the biggest demonstration in Peking for a decade right under the noses of China's security apparatus.



Police quiz people at the Falun Gong protest Reuters

Across China, Falun Gong adherents follow the teachings and supposedly health-giving meditation and martial arts techniques of Li Hongzhi, a 47-year-old qigong master now living in New York. His main book has been banned in China, and Falun Gong has no status as an official religion, but Mr Li's followers have created the biggest non-government movement in China, and one that vents its displeasure when tried.

Falun Gong says it is not a political movement, but to Peking's eyes it represents a force the government does not control. Qigong is a traditional Chinese martial art, but Mr Li's version also includes warnings about modern consumer society, as well as enthusiasm for levitation. Yesterday, the Religious Affairs Bureau declined to say whether the government considered Falun Gong a cult and therefore banned. "It's up to the Public Security Ministry to decide whether it's a cult," one bureau official said. "We're not clear on this matter." A Public Security Ministry official said.

## Weathermen face grapes of wrath

EVERYONE MOANS that the weathermen always get it wrong, but few would think of suing meteorologists for their mistakes. But that is exactly what a group of French wine producers from the Perigord region wants to do.

The vine-growers are furious that Météo-France, the main French weather forecaster, failed to warn them about a heavy hailstorm that struck the area last Wednesday. They claim that their harvest has been destroyed - an economic catastrophe for the area - and they are demanding justice.

Jean Roger, 50, president of the Vine Growers Association for Pyrénées-Orientales, said: "The storm should have been foreseen; we should have been warned. If the weathermen can predict that it will rain in Paris at 3.23pm, how did they miss this?"

According to the Chamber of Agriculture, 2,080 hectares of vines suffered severe damage, and a further 5,230 hectares were mildly affected. Grapes have been detached from the vine, and those remaining have been bruised. "Our whole harvest has been lost and it has made men of all ages cry," said Mr Roger.

## One man and his tricky cats

STREET LIFE  
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

"SHOW ME how you laugh at your house," says the clown, holding out a microphone into the front row. "Tee hee hee," goes an embarrassed girl. "Call that a laugh?" demands the clown. "Now I'll show you how to laugh."

The boy beside me is from this group, a cynical 11-year-old called Fedya. "I bet the cats fall and spit like mince-meat," he says. The children, and the adults who have rediscovered the child in themselves, may be receptive but Kuklachov is going to have to work hard to win over such sneering near-teenagers.

Actually I am rather sceptical, too. As a cat owner, I know the truth of the old joke where the dog says to himself: "He feeds me, he strokes me, he must be God." The cat says: "He feeds me, I stroke him. I must be God." You can never make a cat do what it does not want to do.

But of course Kuklachov, who has been working with cats for 25 years, knows that and always goes with rather than against their instincts. The show opens with the clown setting out a picnic and the cats stealing titbits. It is nature, but choreographed.

A ginger cat enters, seeming to push a pram containing a tiny dog. "You can see the wires," says Fedya. "That's because the pram is heavy," I say, "but could you make your cat stand up on its back legs and strut across the stage like that?" The acts become increas-

ingly spectacular. Cats walk the high wire and fly out over the audience on swings. The black and white Sosiskin (Little Sausage) climbs an eight-metre pole, the drums roll and he jumps, "without parachute or gas mask," into Kuklachov's arms. The cats' feats are interspersed with acts by promising child circus performers. At the end, Kuklachov throws giant plastic balls out for the audience to punch back and forth. Forgetting his street cred, Fedya leaps from his seat to join in.

Typical, you're not even thinking about a holiday and twenty five come along at once.

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Pisa	£140
Prague	£141
Rio de Janeiro	£407
Rome	£140
Tel Aviv	£213
Venice	£142

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

## BUSINESS

B&B vows to fight predators  
as 62% vote for conversion

## BRIEFING

## Terranova boosts Unigate defence

TERRANOVA FOODS, the chilled food producer, bolstered its defence against the hostile £228.5m bid from Unigate yesterday when it issued strong first-quarter profits. Reporting a 13 per cent rise in profits to £3m for the three months to the end of March, Terranova said the company was well placed to deliver good underlying growth.

The company said these prospects were underpinned by strategic initiatives, including expansion in continental Europe. In Terranova's last chance to issue fresh information on the bid, Terry Stannard urged shareholders to reject it, saying: "Unigate is trying to win the company on the cheap."

## Cruickshank named SMG chairman

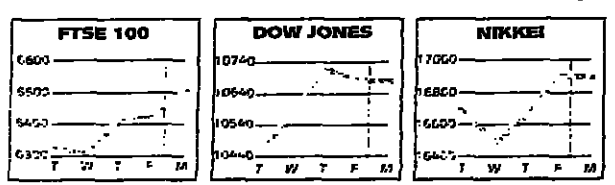
DON CRUICKSHANK (pictured), the former head of telecoms watchdog Ofcom, has been appointed chairman of Scottish Media Group, the owner of Scottish Television, Grampian Television and the Glasgow Herald.

Mr Cruickshank rejected suggestions there was a conflict of interest as he also advises Lord Hollick, chairman of United News and Media, on the company's bid for a third-generation mobile telephone licence. United is a possible bidder for SMG, which was put into play last month after Mirror Group sold its 18.6 per cent stake to Granada. Mr Cruickshank, who also chairs the Action 2000 millennium bug taskforce and the review of UK banking, will spend one day a week at SMG.

## Cable &amp; Wireless in £550m sale

CABLE & WIRELESS is to raise £550m by selling its submarine cable-laying operation to Global Crossing in a deal which marks a further withdrawal from peripheral businesses. Cable & Wireless Global Marine has a fleet of 13 ships and 21 subsea vehicles and is one of the world's leading installers of undersea fibre optic cable systems.

## STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5603.60	72.60	1.30	6239.50	4599.20	2.47
FTSE 250	5729.60	4.10	0.07	5970.90	4247.50	3.04
FTSE 350	3101.10	30.80	1.00	3110.80	2210.40	2.55
FTSE All Share	5003.72	29.09	0.58	5010.25	2143.53	2.63
FTSE SmallCap	2533.90	11.70	0.46	2793.50	1834.40	4.20
FTSE FTSE100	1377.40	2.20	0.16	1517.10	1046.20	3.41
FTSE AIM	929.30	9.60	1.04	1145.50	761.30	1.09
FTSE Eurotop 100	3014.67	30.65	1.03	3079.27	2018.15	1.85
FTSE Eurotop 300	1307.54	10.63	0.82	1332.07	880.63	1.90
Dow Jones	10677.93	-12.89	-0.12	10765.74	7660.30	1.51
Nikkei	16919.51	-4.74	-0.03	17156.06	12787.90	0.75
Hong Kong	12127.02	221.72	1.85	13364.42	8544.79	2.65
Dax	5256.22	60.50	1.17	5217.83	3833.71	1.56
S&P 500	1357.56	0.72	0.05	1363.70	923.32	1.18
Nasdaq	2638.61	47.92	1.85	2630.52	1957.09	0.27
Toronto 300	7049.50	21.01	0.30	7797.00	5320.90	1.48
Brazil Bovespa	11054.95	14.12	0.13	11826.67	4675.69	2.55
Belgium Be10	3244.67	11.32	0.35	3713.21	2696.28	1.99
Amsterdam AEX	365.78	4.55	1.25	400.63	386.38	1.83
France CAC 40	4284.40	21.97	0.52	4414.00	2881.21	1.68
Madrid IBEX35	36172.00	-361.00	-0.92	39170.00	24175.00	1.12
Munich DAX	9907.20	5.60	0.06	10989.80	6869.80	1.81
Stockholm OMX	5298.45	-29.46	-0.56	5454.25	3732.57	1.46
S. Korea Comp	776.30	25.31	3.37	780.73	277.37	0.89
Australia ASX	3129.70	8.00	0.26	3134.50	2386.70	2.99

MONDAY 12:00PM TUESDAY 12:00PM WEDNESDAY 12:00PM THURSDAY 12:00PM FRIDAY 12:00PM

# INTEREST RATES

### SHORT STERLING

Day	Rate
T	5.27
W	5.19
T	5.16
F	5.13

### UK 10 YEAR GILT

Day	Rate
T	4.55
W	4.45
T	4.50
F	4.55

### US LONG BOND

Day	Rate
T	5.55
W	5.50
T	5.55
F	5.60

at 3pm, German money market rates equal over rate

### MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr Chg	1 Year	Yr Chg
UK	5.33	-2.17	5.37	-2.09
US	5.00	-0.69	5.27	-0.65
Japan	0.14	-0.49	0.20	-0.47
Germany	2.59	-1.05	2.68	-1.25

### BOND YIELDS

	10 year	Yr Chg	Long bond	Yr Chg
UK	4.58	-1.23	4.51	-1.23
US	5.28	0.50	5.63	0.42
Japan	1.50	-0.30	2.26	-0.14
Germany	3.88	-1.05	4.85	-0.62

Index	3 month Yr Chg	1 Year	Yr Chg	10 year Yr Chg	Long bond Yr Chg
UK	5.33	-2.17	5.37	-2.09	4.58
US	5.00	-0.69	5.27	-0.65	5.28
Japan	0.14	-0.49	0.20	-0.47	1.50
Germany	2.59	-1.05	2.68	-1.25	3.88

## CURRENCIES

**\$/£**

Day	Rate
W	1.620
T	1.605
F	1.615
M	1.610

**£/£**

Day	Rate
W	1.523
T	1.520
F	1.517
M	1.514

**¥/£**

Day	Rate
W	194
T	193
F	192
M	191

POUND				DOLLAR			
At Spot	Change	Yr Ago		At Spot	Change	Yr Ago	
Dollar	1.6108	-0.42c	1.6730	Sterling	0.6208	+0.16c	0.5977
Euro	1.5222	+0.22c	1.4079	Euro	0.9448	-0.175c	0.8571
Yen	192.20	+0.59	221.31	Yen	119.35	+0.00	132.17
F Index	104.20	+0.00	105.90	S Index	108.50	+0.20	109.30

OTHER INDICATORS

Comd	Cng	Yr Ago		Index	Cng	Yr Ago	Head figs
Brent Oil (\$)	15.80	-0.11	13.24	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04 Mar
Gold (SI)	281.05	-2.50	312.65	RPI	164.10	2.10	160.72 Mar
Silver (\$)	5.15	-0.04	6.32	Base Rates	5.25	7.25	

Oil at 50c

www.bloomberg.com/uk	
TOURIST RATES	
Australia (\$)	2.3879
Austria (schillings)	20.28
Belgium (francs)	59.67
Canada (\$)	2.3228
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8516
Denmark (kroner)	11.003
Finland (markka)	8.8075
France (francs)	9.6927
Germany (marks)	2.8987
Greece (drachma)	482.54
Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.98
Netherlands (guilder)	3.2528
New Zealand (\$)	2.8149
Norway (kroner)	12.30
Portugal (escudos)	294.70
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8850
Singapore (\$)	2.6315
South Africa (rand)	9.4569
Spain (pesetas)	245.31
Sweden (kronor)	13.23

Hong Kong (\$)	12.13	Switzerland (francs)	2.3752
Ireland (punts)	1.1616	Thailand (bahts)	55.37
Indraindian (rupees)	62.33	Turkey (liras)	599845
Israel (shekels)	6.0096	USA (\$)	1.5778
Italy (lire)	2874		
Japan (yen)	188.35		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8550		
Malta (lire)	0.6250		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: **Thomas Cook**

BRADFORD & Bingley yesterday vowed to resist predatory approaches and to become an independent high-street lender after 62 per cent of members who voted backed conversion to a bank.

After the annual meeting in a marquee on a cricket pitch in Bingley, West Yorkshire, next to the society's headquarters, executives said the society's conversion would take the form of an independent listing on the London Stock Exchange. This is likely to take place within 15 months after members formally approve conversion plans.

Likely predators for Bradford & Bingley include Lloyds TSB, NatWest and AXA, the French insurance giant. Claude Bebeur, group chief executive of AXA, is interested in buying a UK building society.

Lindsay MacKinlay, B&B chairman, said the board would have a duty to consider approaches from interested bidders if it affected the value of the society when it converts. "It would be most unwelcome, but the board would obviously have to think about the options." However, he said the board had received no approaches so far.

Analysts believe an independent B&B would achieve a market capitalisation of between £2.5bn and £3bn if it floats. The society has 220 building society branches, 400 local agencies and 370 estate agents. It also has 7,700 staff and reserves of £1bn. Recently B&B revamped its image after research showed that the bowler-hatted image of Mr Bradford and Mr Bingley was

BY ANDREW VERITY

sexist. Last year the society made post-tax profits of £34m, up 33 per cent on the previous year. Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive of B&B since 1996, said he was disappointed by the vote, which represents an emphatic rejection of his arguments in favour of mutuality. "I am very sad about what happened today, but democracy has taken its path and I happen to believe in democracy."

He insisted there was nothing to prevent him continuing as chief executive. He still believed in the principle of mutuality, but customer service would not be affected. "I will do everything in my power to carry out the members' wishes going forward."

Executives admitted savings rates would go down and mortgage rates up as a result of the vote. They said the society would have to be more efficient, suggesting further cost cuts are likely. They declined to comment on a likely level of redundancies.

After closing to new savings customers for four months, Bradford & Bingley will reopen all products to new customers. At the meeting yesterday, angry pro-mutual members expressed disappointment at the vote. Some called for the board to continue its campaign against conversion ahead of the formal vote due later this year. One said: "There is still time to stress, by fighting like political lions, that members should still vote against conversion. The board should carry on that fight."

Outlook, page 13

## DEFENCES AGAINST CARPETBAGGERS

Rank	Society	Defence
1.	Nationwide	Assign to charity
2.	Bradford & Bingley	1998 cut-off
3.	Britannia	Assign to charity
4.	Yorkshire	Assign to charity
5.	Portman	1998 cut-off
6.	Coventry	Assign to charity



Bradford &amp; Bingley members arrive at the annual meeting in Bingley to cast their votes

Simon Ryder

## Plumber who took quiet approach

STEPHEN MAJOR, the man who ended the 148-year history of Bradford & Bingley as a building society, said he was returning to a four-month spell as a minor celebrity, writes Andrew Verity.

Mr Major, a modest maintenance plumber who works in his home town of Lisburn, County Antrim, attributed his victory to a low-profile campaign.

In contrast to Michael Hardern, the flamboyant ex-bowler who last year failed to force Na-

tionwide to become a bank, Mr Major decided not to run for election to the board of directors.

Instead, Mr Major quietly collected the 50 supporting signatures from qualifying members he needed to table his resolution. With the help of national newspapers, he had enough signatures by December. He then stepped up his account balance to more than £10,000 and began speaking to the press.

Yesterday he said he was heading straight back to North-

ern Ireland on the ferry. "I might celebrate with a glass of Guinness. I think the Bradford & Bingley have been very fair throughout the process; they are now hitting the bullet and I am going to return to my life as a 9-5 plumber."

"I'm not opposed to building societies at all. I think they are an important asset to the housing market and they have a great future," he said. Asked where he would go for his own mortgage, he replied: "Probably a building society."



Major: Back to Ireland

GEC spends cash pile on  
£2.8bn US Internet deal

GEC YESTERDAY unveiled its second blockbuster takeover in two months as it agreed to pay £2.8bn for a US maker of Internet switching equipment. The acquisition of FORE Systems of Pittsburgh follows last month's £1.3bn purchase of another US telecoms equipment company, Reltec, and positions GEC strongly in this high-growth market sector.

This is GEC's second deal since it announced the sale of its Marconi defence arm to British Aerospace, and will use the remainder of its famous cash mountain, leaving the group with net debt for the first time in three decades.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON  
Business Editor

Lord Simpson, GEC chief executive, defended the price for FORE and said GEC was still looking for more, albeit smaller, deals in the telecoms industry. "It is a full price, but nobody is doing transactions at anything other than a full price in this sector," he said.

GEC is paying \$4.5bn, or \$4.2bn net of debt - a 43 per cent premium to FORE's closing price on Friday and an 80 per cent premium to the company's valuation before GEC's interest became known earlier this month.

But Lord Simpson pointed out that FORE was in one of the fastest-growing sectors of the market and was increasing revenue at 35 per cent a year.

This year the volume of Internet data traffic is forecast to outstrip voice traffic, and FORE equipment is used to switch an estimated two-thirds of global Internet traffic. FORE has a workforce of 2,000 and had net income of \$51m last year on sales of \$632m, up from \$467m the previous year.

The deal will result in a goodwill charge of \$3.8bn. But GEC said the impact of the acquisition on earnings before goodwill would be broadly neu-

tral this year and positive thereafter.

Together with the Reltec acquisition, the FORE deal will increase sales of the new-look GEC to £5.4bn. Lord Simpson's goal is to build GEC back up to the same size as it was before the Marconi merger, with sales of £6.7bn and a market capitalisation of £15bn.

The aim is to combine FORE with GEC's existing Marconi Communications division, giving it a presence in three key equipment areas of transmission, access and switching.

Outlook, page 13  
UK to vet B&B deal, page 14

Academic to  
replace Budd on  
Bank's MPCBY DIANE COYLE  
In Washington

SUSHIL WADHWANI, a partner in a hedge fund and formerly a high powered academic economist, will be joining the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in June in place of Sir Alan Budd.

The choice of Mr Wadhwani, who formerly worked for Goldman Sachs and lectured at the London School of Economics for eight years, is a clear signal that the Chancellor wants to keep the MPC a body of experts rather than one representative of industry. The MPC has been attacked by unions and business organisations for paying too little heed to the needs of industry.

Bank and Treasury insiders say Sir Alan has been one of the MPC's most important and influential members. He is regarded as one of the committee's interest-rate hawks, but the views of his successor are difficult to predict.

Sir Alan is stepping down from the MPC because of his appointment as Provost of Queen's College, Oxford. He had been due to retire from the Treasury, where he was chief economic adviser, when the Chancellor asked him to join the

committee at a formative stage. Economists will welcome the choice of an esteemed researcher as his successor. Mr Wadhwani specialised in analysing wage inflation and the jobs market before his move to the City. "He understands financial markets and the labour market. He is a well-rounded economist," said David Miles, professor of economics at Imperial College.

Chancellor Gordon Brown said: "He will bring not only recognised expertise in the field of labour market economics, but also considerable experience of the financial markets."

Mr Wadhwani has co-authored research papers with Mervyn King, now the Bank's deputy governor, and also with Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary.

In his most recent paper, Mr Wadhwani argued that US stocks were at least 50 per cent overvalued. The gloomy assessment caused a stir when it was published earlier this year.

Mr Wadhwani has resigned as director of research at Tudor Proprietary Trading, a hedge fund, and will move to the Bank on 1 June. Ian Plenderleith, one of the Bank's executive directors, is being reappointed to the MPC, it was also announced yesterday.

## Kuoni chief receives £4.3m pay-off

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Kuoni is to receive a £4.3m pay-off in return for giving up the top job in the Swiss travel group's £1.5bn merger with First Choice Holidays.

Riccardo Gullotti, who was going to be chief executive of the enlarged group, will have his five-year contract paid up in full as he steps back to a non-executive role. Three other Kuoni direc-

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

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# Hail Morgan Grenfell, comeback kings

**News Analysis:** The asset manager sent reeling by the fallout from the Nicola Horlick and Peter Young affairs has returned to the top

BY LEA PATERSON

JUST two-and-a-half years after it became embroiled in one of the most notorious financial scandals of recent times, Morgan Grenfell, the asset management arm of Deutsche Bank, is outperforming almost every other major UK fund manager.

Unlike most of its peers, Morgan Grenfell beat the FTSE All-Share index in 1998, with its flagship pooled pension fund returning 16.4 per cent over the 12 months. It won £5bn of net new business last year, more than any other major UK house – not bad at a time when active fund managers are under more pressure to match the performance of tracker funds. "People have certainly been surprised at how well they've done," said one competitor.

It's all a far cry from a couple of years ago when the prospects of Morgan Grenfell – then known as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management (MGAM) – had been all but written off by the investment community. MGAM was reeling from the double whammy of Nicola Horlick – the so-called Superwoman who left the amid claims that she was plotting to defect to a rival bank – and the Peter Young scandal.

Mr Young, one of MGAM's star fund managers, was suspended after a series of "irregularities" were discovered in a number of his funds. Deutsche MGAM's parent, bailed out investors to the tune of almost £200m, several MGAM senior managers were unceremoniously sacked, and Mr Young became the subject of a lengthy investigation by the Serious Fraud Office that still continues.

The speed of Deutsche's bail-out was one reason why the damage to MGAM's reputation was not as bad as feared. But it is only part of the story. According to management at Morgan Grenfell, there were at least two other reasons why the company was able to come back so strongly. First, internal measures – a lot of time and energy was devoted into persuading MGAM fund managers to stay. And second, solid investment performance.

Karl Sternberg, deputy chief investment officer at Morgan Grenfell, said: "We would have lost clients in large numbers if we'd lost fund managers in large numbers. But we didn't."

On investment performance, Morgan Grenfell profited from spotting a series of investment trends its major competitors failed to notice. The company realised early on that the so-called "new industries" such as pharmaceuticals were characterised by high entry barriers and clear sources of competitive advantage – both good news for earnings. Unlike many peers, Morgan Grenfell did not pile into more traditional UK industries, arguing that a combination of excess capacity and low inflation would harm their ability to generate quality earnings growth.

According to Mr Sternberg, Morgan Grenfell has also realised the limits of active fund management – the company



The high profile Nicola Horlick, dubbed 'Superwoman', left Morgan Grenfell amid claims that she was plotting to join a rival bank

only takes bets when it feels it can win. For example, it has refused to try to call the markets. Many UK fund managers – most notably Phillips & Drew – moved heavily into cash in the mid-1990s amid fears the bull run was about to end. Morgan Grenfell resisted the temptation, arguing it was virtually impossible to call the market at the right time. "One area where we have added

value is that, unlike many competitors, we haven't made the cash call," says Mr Sternberg. Other Morgan Grenfell peers – including Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management – have been criticised for failing to rein in their fund managers. Although Morgan Grenfell fund managers are allowed a degree of discretion, the key allocation decisions – such as the weight-

ing given to cash or to bonds – is made by a central committee. Fund managers are only allowed to vary by 1 per cent from the committee's decisions.

However, Morgan Grenfell cannot claim all the credit for their recent solid run. Put simply, its competition – at least among UK active managers – hasn't been up to much. The other major houses – Mercury

Asset Management (MAM), Gartmore, Schroders – have consistently underperformed. MAM is also struggling with the fallout from its spat with Unilever which is attempting to sue MAM for its poor performance in 1997, while Phillips & Drew has seen its reputation tarnished by its move into cash.

Where does Morgan Grenfell go from here? It cannot count on

continued underperformance from its rivals. Indeed, the signs are that Morgan Grenfell's competitors have already begun to get their act together. Mercury, for example, has won \$3bn (£340m) of new business in the first quarter of this year, more than in any year before it was bought by the US bank Merrill Lynch.

Morgan Grenfell, like its rivals, is also going to have to con-

FUND PERFORMANCE	
Performance of the major pooled funds, 1998	
	% return
Morgan Grenfell	16.4
Mercury	12.7
Gartmore	11.9
Phillips & Drew	9.4
Schroders	4.2
FTSE All Share	13.6

Note: Percentage returns are quoted for selected UK pooled pension funds. Source: CAPS

tend with the growing competitive challenge from passive fund management. And, although the company's institutional reputation may be flourishing, retail investors are still wary – Peter Young's decision to appear in court to answer fraud charges dressed as a woman only served to remind retail customers of the scandal that engulfed the firm a few years ago.

But perhaps the most serious challenge facing Morgan Grenfell is its parent company's merger with Bankers Trust of the US. The uncertainty caused by the BT deal has caused all sorts of problems in other parts of Deutsche's franchise, but the asset management business has, at least until now, remained largely immune.

Publicly, of course, Morgan Grenfell is confident the merger will be nothing but good news. Privately, both inside and outside the firm, there are doubts about how well the risk-averse culture that pervades Morgan Grenfell will go down with the innovative and brash fund BT managers.

That said, if a company can successfully cope both with losing a fund manager with the profile of Nicola Horlick and with the fallout from the Peter Young scandal, dealing with a merger or two should, in theory, be a breeze.

## UK will vet BAe-Marconi merger

THE GOVERNMENT has won its battle with Brussels to vet the £7.3bn merger between British Aerospace and GEC's Marconi defence business.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to announce shortly that the deal will be examined by the UK competition authorities and not the European Commission's mergers taskforce.

The decision will anger the French and Germans, who lobbied hard for the deal to be vetted in Brussels. Although the EC competition authorities will still have the power to examine the civil aspects of the merger, these are comparatively insignificant.

The decision by BAe and Marconi to opt for a "British solution" to defence restructuring ended merger talks between BAe and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany and quashed hopes of an electronics merger between GEC and Thomson-CSF of France.

Jürgen Schrempp, Dasa chairman, has since warned that the BAe-Marconi deal has killed any chance of creating a

BY MICHAEL HARRISON  
Business Editor

single European aerospace and defence company.

The UK's success in wrestling the merger from Brussels means that it will be examined by the Office of Fair Trading, which will submit a recommendation to ministers after a six-week investigation.

Senior BAe and GEC executives remain confident the deal will avoid a referral to the new Competition Commission and believe it could be approved by the summer.

Under its terms deal shareholders will receive 1.17 billion BAe shares, giving them a 37 per cent stake in the enlarged company. BAe will take on £1.55bn of debt and pay GEC a further £440m in loan stock.

The merger will create the biggest defence contractor in Europe and the third-largest in the world, with combined sales of \$20bn (£12.3bn) and could produce £275m of savings a year. The cost of implementing the merger will be around £200m.

Its new "World Development Indicators", an annual compendium of statistics, highlights a wide range of inequalities between rich and poor states.

For example, GDP per head has grown faster in the rich countries, reaching 2.3 per cent growth between 1965 and

Diane Coyle in Washington reports on plans to ease hardship and handle future crises

## Financial crisis hampers effort to cut world poverty

THE LONG MARCH towards the reduction of poverty has been stalled by the financial crisis of the past two years, according to a new report from the World Bank yesterday.

The report concludes there are some encouraging trends, but warns that new inequalities between rich and poor countries are emerging in cyberspace, with little Internet access in the developing world.

"This has been more than a financial crisis. This has been a crisis of institutions not robust enough to sustain the force of an increasingly global economy," said James Wolfensohn, the World Bank president.

The Bank warns that it will become increasingly difficult for the international community to achieve goals such as reducing poverty and infant mortality and universal primary education.

For instance, in the Philippines and Sri Lanka there is a much higher ratio of mobile telephones to land lines than there is in European states such as Belgium and France.

Some sub-Saharan countries, including Botswana, Djibouti and Ghana, already have fully digital telephone networks.

Even so, the poorer nations lag far behind in the number of mobile phones in use, with just 1 per 1,000 of the population compared with 129 in the richest countries, and 16 fixed telephone lines per thousand compared with 506.

There are similar disparities in computer and Internet access. Two in every thousand people in poor countries have access to a personal computer, while more than one in four do so in the rich countries. There is less than one Internet host for every 10,000 people in the low income countries, and 375 per 10,000 in the high income ones.

There are exceptions, of course. Cuba has as many Internet hosts per capita as France, while South Africa and Venezuela rival Portugal. Among the emerging regions, Latin America boasts by far the greatest computer access.

But the region ranks second to central and eastern Europe in Internet access. South Asia lags far behind in both cases, despite India's reputation for strength in the software industry.

There is much else to be gloomy about as the century draws to an end. Increases in life expectancy in sub-Saharan

Africa in recent decades have in many countries been wiped out by the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The growth of the school-age population in countries of the developing world has outpaced primary school enrollments. Living standards in Russia and Eastern Europe have diverged since 1989. What's more, levels of foreign aid have fallen to their lowest in almost 50 years.

In an effort to find some rays of hope, the report makes some encouraging observations. India and China have largely escaped the recent crisis, it notes.

Some poor countries, such as Botswana and China, have sustained rapid growth in GDP and incomes. In general, living standards around the world have risen dramatically over the past quarter of a century.

But Mr Wolfensohn ends his introduction by striking a more sombre note. "A year ago we confidently predicted that the international development goals of halving poverty, cutting infant and child mortality by two-thirds and enrolling all children in primary education could be met. Now those goals are at risk."

FINANCE MINISTERS and central bankers from the Group of Seven industrial countries failed to agree yesterday on how to make private-sector lenders take part in future international financial rescues.

Although they are determined that the private sector must share the burden in future IMF rescues, little progress is expected in the near future.

However, the G7 did reach agreement on plans to sell some of the IMF's \$300bn gold reserves to finance a more generous programme of debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Details of the plan are likely to be announced by G7 leaders at their June summit, but the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, urged the sale of at least \$30bn of IMF gold to generate extra funds for debt relief.

This was the first G7 meeting in almost two years at which there was a sense that the world economic position had begun to improve, senior officials said. Although there are fears about over-dependence on US growth, ministers were cautiously optimistic that the economic and financial crisis is over. European officials stressed that the EU was playing its part in boosting growth.

The meeting discussed the likely impact of the war in the Balkans. This is not expected to damage the world economy as a whole, but the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will begin to plan for the post-war reconstruction of the region.

The failure to agree on private-sector involvement in crises hinged on the question of whether the IMF ought to draw up a set of rules governing private lending to emerging markets, or whether crises should be settled on a case-by-case basis. Mr Brown strongly urged the former, while Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, favours the latter.

The US is determined that private lenders will share the burden. Larry Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary, said on Sunday that creditors must not expect "with absolute certainty" to be repaid on time.

However, the US is concerned about a possible lender backlash that would further slow the already paltry flows of new investment to emerging economies. The Institute of International Finance, an association of bankers, stressed this in response to Mr Summers' speech at its conference.

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## Henry Boot

1998 RESULTS

### PROFIT GROWTH MAINTAINED

Year ended 31st December	1998	1997
Turnover	£172.1m	£162.2m
Profit before tax	£10.6m	£10.1m
Basic earnings per share	29.1p	27.1p
Dividends per share	9.1p	8.5p
Net assets per share	233p	222p

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## Figures are off the Railtracks

WHO SAID there were lies, damned lies and statistics? Probably a railwayman in the new privatised era, if recent events are anything to go by.

Railtrack's much-vaunted 10-year Network Management Statement promised £27bn of investment, but critics swiftly narrowed it down to just £1.4bn of new money or £140m a year.

One of the major losers was Rail Freight Group, which was offered very little in terms of copper-bottomed promises of new money. But the cover-sheet of a 30-page document from Rail Freight Group attacking Railtrack's plans, published today, scores an own-goal. Under the heading "Our six most important conclusions," it lists – you guessed it – just five.

## Bouncing clever

MICHAEL COPPEL has retired as chairman of Airsprung

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Future after 30 years with the West Country-based group. Originally from Belfast, Mr Coppel joined John Yates, one of the founding members of the company, in 1969 after his own bed factory in Northern Ireland was blown up during the Troubles.

Mr Coppel helped Airsprung through its flotation and became chairman in 1993. The Yates family still owns 41 per cent of the company, based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, which was originally founded in 1870.

Currently two members of the third generation of the Yates family help run Airsprung: Jeremy Yates is managing director of the Gainsborough beds and sofas subsidiary, while Stephen Yates is marketing director of Airsprung.



Peter Ziemiak, chief executive of Airsprung, joined in 1978 and says Mr Coppel has left the business "in good nick". A new chairman will be announced over the next week.

## Happy St George

SPEAKING OF family firms, Don Lewin, whose family owns 37 per cent of the ubiquitous Clinton Cards, named the shop chain after his son Clinton – who is now managing director.

Clinton Cards decided four years ago that St George's Day (23 April) was in need of pepping up as England's national day, and launched a range of cards accordingly.

Sales of St George's Day cards have risen from virtual-

ly zero back then to more than 60,000 by last Friday.

## Coming up Roses

MARCUS ROSE, the former England rugby player, is joining quoted property developer Development Securities as director in charge of its investment portfolio.

Mr Rose played for the Varsity match for Cambridge in 1979 and went on to win his first cap in the red rose shirt in 1981.

For the past 13 years Mr Rose has worked for DTZ Debenham Thorpe, in charge of the property firm's West End investment agency team. He

studied land economy at Cambridge.

He spent seven of his years at DTZ sitting slap bang next to his ex-England team mate Rob Andrew. Mr Andrew only left when rugby union turned professional a couple of years ago, when he was whisked off to play full time for Newcastle.

Mr Rose will be working for one of the property sector's best known personalities, Martin Landau, the deputy chairman of Development Securities.

The company recently redeveloped M15's old offices in Curzon Street, London, and is busy building a new business park at Cambourne outside Cambridge.

## Sexy business

A SCOTTISH publishing company is about to launch the business world's answer to Loaded, the lads' mag. Unintimidated aims to portray business as "sexy, glamorous and gutsy".

John Hatfield, who is editing the new mag on behalf of publishers Carrys Group, says: "Most business magazines in Scotland are very advertorial or very corporate. We believe entrepreneurs are more likely to read FTM or Loaded than The Economist."

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

## COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-lev
BATN Advanced Comm (P)	US 16.072m (10.557m)	3.82m (1.458m)	11.50c (4.84c)	0.5025c (0.5025c)	21.05.99	10.05.99
Henry Boot & Sons (P)	172.12m (162.15m)	10.59m (10.13m)	29.1p (27.1p)	9.1p (8.5p)	04.05.99	04.05.99
Calsonic Investments (P)	12.34m (13.65m)	-0.067m (-0.365m)	-0.49p (-2.11p)	1.225p (1.225p)	30.05.99	07.05.99
PPL Therapeutics (P)	0.478m (1.134m)	-14.2m (-10.2m)	-50p (-36p)	-	-	-
Premier Direct Group (I)	5.5m (4.3m)	0.558m (0.452m)	10.3p (8.2p)	-	-	-
Recycling Services Group (I)	13.727m (12.256m)	0.052m (0.017m)	0.25p (0.10p)	-	-	-
SBG Group (I)	26.31m (11.30m)	1.36m (0.523m)	10.3p (6.2p)	1.5p (1.5p)	23.07.99	04.05.99
Solihull Group (SP)	-	1.07m (0.598m)	15.7p (13.8p)	7.2p (13.3p)	25.05.99	04.05.99
Weston Co (P)	15.72m (14.55m)	1.54m (1.35m)	14.24p (11.79p)	5.1p (5.0p)	01.07.99	10.05.99

(P) - Final (I) - Interim (D) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (N) - Nine Months



# ministers fail to see private or rescue role

... business

1950

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.

1. *Phragmites* (common reed) is a tall, grass-like plant that grows in wetlands. It is a native species and is often found in large, dense stands. It is a common sight in the marshes of the New York City area.

[illegible]

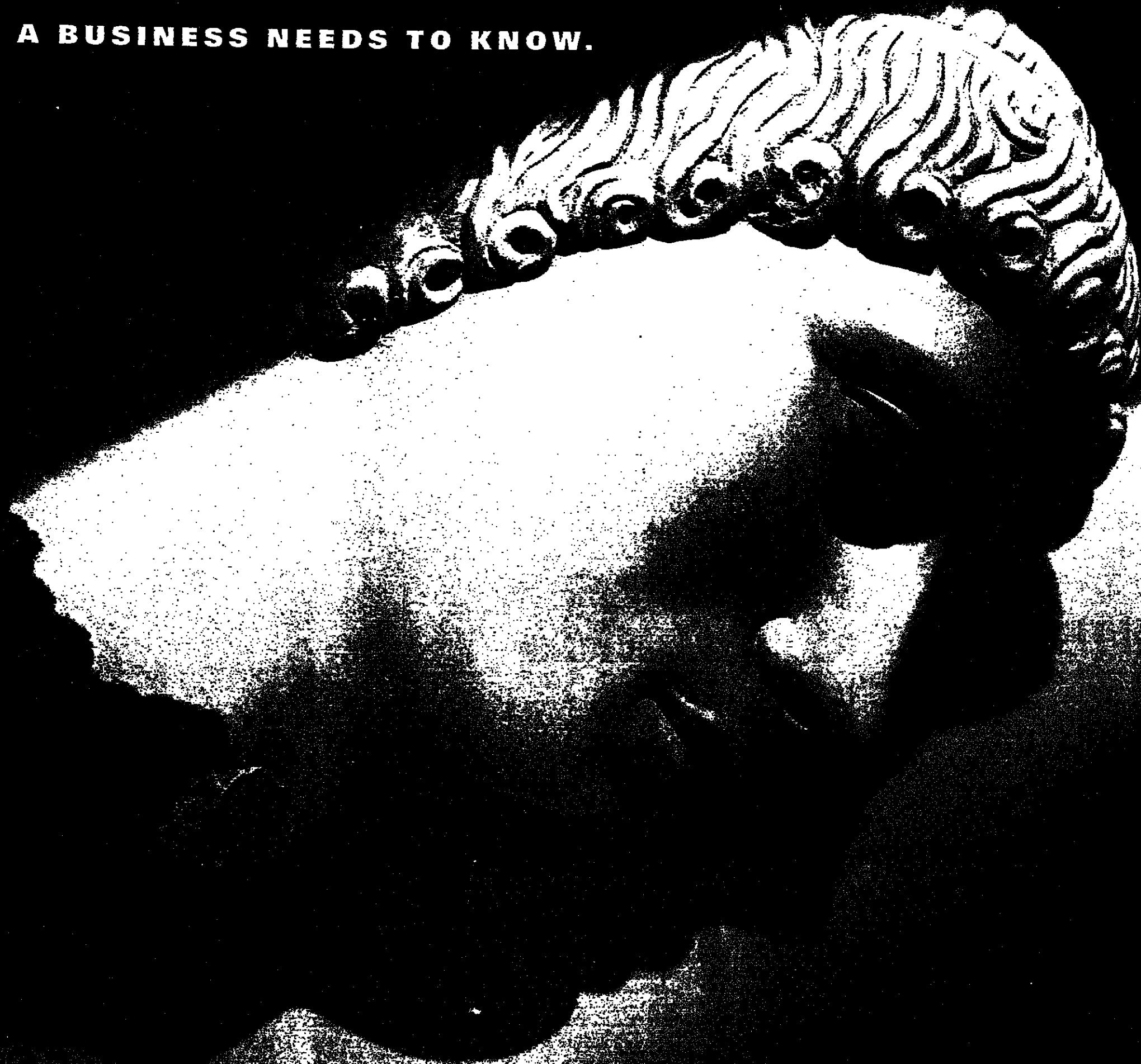
Q. Yes, that is correct.

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Northerners. It's not only in the north of France, but also in the north of England, that you can find  
this wine. It's a great wine, and it's a great value for money."*

*The New York Times* 12/1/97







10-11-68

Football: Departs  
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# SPORT

Football: Departing Benfica manager laughs off white handkerchiefs as he looks forward to family life

## Souness unmoved at mock farewell

HALF THE capacity crowd at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon were waving white handkerchiefs the other week in mock farewell to Benfica's outgoing manager as a police escort led him away. Sacked for only the second time in his long and successful career, he not only has to see the season out first before departing, but has already met his successor. And no, he is not walking straight back into employment in Britain.

So how is Graeme Souness faring these days? Strangely, as he returns from a walk with his pregnant wife, Karen, and his beloved dogs in the grounds that surround his beautiful Hampshire home near Winchester, the man is smiling. "I've had many of my football friends contacting me to express their sorrow at my sacking," he says, as he settles down in the living room.

"I have to tell them that I'm happy. I'm coming home to my wife, who is expecting in August. I've got a brand new lawnmower that I intend to use very shortly. I'm going to enjoy living in a house I've had for three years but barely slept in, and, most important of all, I'm going to see much more of my family. On a professional note I have a nice feeling about myself. Only I understand the true difficulties of the Benfica job and I know, under the circumstances, that I did bloody well. So no, it's not bravado. I'm truly a very happy man."

He seems it, as well. In truth, he's been half expecting the chop for much of his 18-month spell in Lisbon, a period which makes him the longest-serving coach at the club for six years. "I was promised \$50 million (\$31m) to spend on constructing a squad capable of becoming champions again, and a force in Europe," the 45-year-old former Rangers, Liverpool, Galatasaray, Torino and Southampton manager, explains. "I've actually spent \$500,000. Any other buys came from money generated by ourselves."

"Within three months I realised it was going to be very, very tough. Benfica have the most demanding group of fans I've ever come across, far far more than at Rangers or Liverpool. They think Benfica have a God-given right to be the best in Europe. But the club's been mismanaged for years now. They haven't won a league title for five years which, for a club supported by 60 per cent of the Portuguese population, is considered unforgivable. And they're still in the region of \$40 million in debt."

Despite all this, Souness, together with his trusty lieutenant, Phil Boersma, hailed Benfica up from sixth to the runners-up spot in the league last season behind Porto and a place in the Champions League. It should have been time to celebrate, but Souness understood what this achievement meant.

"Coming second gave me a little leeway, but it wasn't regarded as a great feat. I knew that there would be only one outcome this season if we failed to win the championship. I'm a big boy, I've been in the game now a long, long time and once I had come to terms with the way it is in a Latin country where there is just one giant club I was able to accept anything and everything."

The axe fell officially after Benfica went down 2-1 to lowly Braga last week, but Souness knew his time was up after his team of Portuguese and cheap British imports fell 0-3 at home to joint second-placed Boavista. "It was a bad result, of course, although the scoreline wasn't a fair reflection on the game. It was played in front of 80,000 people. In our next home game 15,000 turned up. It's the nature of the beast, I'm afraid."

"The president asked me to come over for lunch, but I knew what he was going to say. You see, from the start of the season my job was hanging on two bad results. I've since found out that other coaches were being contacted about the job after the Boavista defeat."

Was he aware of the handkerchief send-off? Souness smiles wryly. "Well, when there's an 80,000 crowd, and over half of them are waving them at you, there's a decent chance it won't escape your notice," he replies. "It didn't bother me in the slightest. I've had 100,000 Romanians baying for my blood in Bucharest before, so this was nothing. But it unsettled some of my younger players and, when you bear in mind it happened after 10 minutes when we were just a goal down, that was pretty unhelpful."

Souness has analysed his term of office in Lisbon but is unable to find too many faults. "Any trainer's job is to get the best he can out of the group of players he has, and in that department I don't think anyone else could have got more out of them than me. I'm super-critical about myself, but I'm leaving the club in a far better position than when I started. I don't care who they are, I defy anyone to have done better under the circumstances made available to me."

Absurdly, Souness has to see out the season. He insists, like a true professional, that he will try his hardest to raise Benfica back up to second place and into the Champions' League, but even he accepts



IAN STAFFORD

the situation has become strange. "It's a bit bizarre, isn't it? Once the decision's made, you want to get out and get on."

Perhaps more bizarrely, he spent last Saturday night in the company of Jupp Heynckes, the man who will be replacing him at Benfica. Heynckes knows a little about Souness' current experiences. Last year the former German international player was told he was on his way out of Real Madrid shortly before he won the European Cup. Still, it was an awkward moment. "I got the feeling he was a little uncomfortable," Souness admits. "I could quite see the funny side of it. Any thing goes in a Latin country, and

I wished him good luck for his future." Sounds like Heynckes is going to need it.

As for Souness, he's in no hurry to throw himself back into the game that has been his life for much of his 45 years. He's already received one offer. "It's an interesting one where I would be involved both in managing and investing, but it's not what I'm looking for right now," he admits. "I'm going to learn from my mistakes." In what way? "Well, when I left Southampton I took the first offer that came along, without taking in any background research. It didn't work out." By this he means he became manager of Torino, was presented with a team by the owners,

and was sacked after six games. This followed an unhappy spell at The Dell. "The next job has to be the right one, with people who want to go forward and achieve. I thought this was the case at Southampton, but I was told a tale. Nope, I'm in no hurry whatsoever. I'm going to enjoy the summer."

We take a stroll beside the stretch of the River Itchen that he actually owns and watch as the brown trout flit their way through the waters. Does he regret his 18 months in Portugal? "No, not at all," he insists. "The Portuguese are lovely people, but they take their nice, friendly heads off and leave them at home when they go to a

match. You never stop learning in this game, and I believe I'm a better coach now than I was when I started in Lisbon. Football is a fickle game in England, but it's not a patch compared to Portugal. If you can work at Benfica, you can work anywhere."

What if another European giant came in for him? Graeme Souness stops and looks at me with an expression that begged no debate. "You mean a huge club whose supporters are so desperate for success that their lives almost depend on it, but there's no money?" He shakes his head and screws up his face. "I wouldn't touch it," he says. "Not a chance."

Now is the right time to go, I have spoken to Rudi Straeli, the Bedford coach, and he understands my reasons. "Straeli probably understands the reasons why another of his international forwards, Scott Murray, is considering offers from Newcastle and Saracens, but if the new Bedford are going to progress at all, they cannot afford to haemorrhage genuine talent."

There was reassuring news of Zinzan Brooke yesterday as the Harlequins captain-coach continued to recover swiftly from a whiplash neck injury suffered at Saracens on Sunday. The former All Black No 8 was not detained at Watford General Hospital and while another appearance this season was considered unlikely, doctors told him he would regain full fitness sooner rather than later.

WALLES SQUAD (Tour to Argentina, May and June): Backs: S. Howarth (Sale), R. Budge (Llanelli), R. Roberts (Gwent), R. Wale (Cardiff), D. James (Pontypridd), G. Thomas (Cardiff), R. Morgan (Pontypridd), A. Bates (Cardiff), M. Taylor (Swansea), L. Davies (Cardiff), S. Gibbs (Swansea), R. Jenkins (Pontypridd), A. Thomas (Swansea), S. Jones (Llanelli), R. Howley (Cardiff), D. Williams (Ebbw Vale), R. Jones (Swansea), P. Rogers (London Irish), A. Lewis (Cardiff), D. Morris (Swansea), R. Evans (Swansea), D. Young (Swansea), I. Hastings (Cardiff), C. Caldwell (Cardiff), I. Gough (Pontypridd), C. Wynn (Llanelli), R. Wynn (Llanelli), A. Moore (Swansea), S. Cusack (Llanelli), C. Charles (Swansea), R. Jenkins (Swansea), S. Lewis (Pontypridd), R. Arnold (Newcastle), R. Williams (Pontypridd), I. Rodger (Llanelli), Players on standby: R. Evans (Swansea), P. John (Pontypridd), R. Hayward (Llanelli), S. Williams (Cardiff), J. Davies (Llanelli), G. Lewis (Cardiff), R. Jenkins (Llanelli).

Undoubtedly luck had some part in this. If the half-backs, Bryan



At peace in his Hampshire garden: 'I've got a new lawnmower that I intend to use shortly,' says Graeme Souness David Ashdown

## Big four dominate Welsh tourists

### RUGBY UNION

By Chris Hewett

THE GREAT and good of the Welsh Rugby Union have yet to complete their deliberations on the make-up of next season's "super club" quartet, which is no great surprise given that WRU conclusions come around about as frequently as Test victories over the All Blacks: on average, one every 46 years. A strong power base is beginning to emerge in the principality, however. Twenty-nine of the 37 players selected for this summer's World Cup shakedown in Argentina come from Cardiff, Llanelli, Pontypridd and Swansea – a concentration of talent that mirrors Graham Henry's vision of a new dawn for Wales.

Assuming Shane Howarth and Craig Quinell, two of Henry's most prominent performers in the Five Nations' Championship, complete their widely touted moves to Cardiff and Ponty respectively, only five tourists will come from outside the big four. The coach's blueprint, which requires the best Welsh players to be contracted to the best Welsh clubs and exposed to the best Welsh and cross-border competitions, is being followed almost to the letter.

Henry had toyed with the idea of giving a handful of up-and-comers, including Gareth Cooper of Bath and Alex Popham of Newport, a first taste of life on the Pampas, but World Cup imperatives intervened. His first tour squad is particularly strong at centre and loose forward and the New Zealander has armed himself with six props, a smart move considering the Pumas' reputation for scrummaging the pants off visiting packs.

Three uncapped players have made the cut: the Swansea scrum-half Rhodri Jones, the Newcastle back-rower Richard Arnold and the Llanelli open-side flanker Ian Bookhyer. There is a recall for Arwel Thomas, the most naturally gifted Welsh stand-off for a generation, and big opportunities for two tight forwards whose careers have been blighted by injury, Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, and Andy Moore, the Swansea lock. The most-capped Welsh second row of them all, Gareth Llewellyn, may yet be added if a broken arm rules out Pontypridd's Ian Gough.

Wales are scheduled to play two Tests in Buenos Aires, on 5 and 12 June, and have also signed up for an adventurous trek into the badlands of Tucuman, where men are men and rugby-playing guests tend to get pelted with anything that comes to hand. It will be a tough ask for a Welsh side weighed down by the psychological baggage of so many ill-disciplined and unsuccessful tours, but Henry will discover an enormous amount about his side's prospects this autumn. Argentina have been drawn in Wales' World Cup group.

Just across the Severn Bridge, Gloucester finally completed the first of a planned series of visits to the transfer market by securing the services of Junior Parameo, the influential loose forward from Samoa. Parameo agonised long and hard before turning his back on Bedford – indeed, last Friday's change of ownership at Goldington Road almost persuaded him to stay put – but the 30-year-old agreed a three-year deal yesterday.

"It was a difficult decision, but I have come to Gloucester for family reasons and for the security the move will bring," explained Parameo, who must undergo corrective surgery on a neck condition before playing again.

"Now is the right time to go. I have spoken to Rudi Straeli, the Bedford coach, and he understands my reasons." Straeli probably understands the reasons why another of his international forwards, Scott Murray, is considering offers from Newcastle and Saracens, but if the new Bedford are going to progress at all, they cannot afford to haemorrhage genuine talent."

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## Villepreux must not be a French fall guy

WE ALL agree it has been a marvellous Five Nations season, the best for years. It will not, I hope, be thought grudging if I say its fascination derived less from the quality of the rugby than from the capricious nature of the scorelines and the reversals of form in two of the countries involved. I refer, of course, to Scotland and France.

Throughout the season, from the moment they took the field in the Dublin rain, the French looked several courses short of the full menu at lunch. Many observers, some of them French themselves, have blamed their performance on a lack of concentration on the task in hand. They were, according to this explanation or excuse, looking forward to the World Cup instead.

Others have blamed one of their coaches, Pierre Villepreux. The French are fond of sending supposed enemies of the people to the guillotine – though in this respect



ALAN WATKINS

contrary to everything he has ever believed in.

My own view is that France's disappointing season derived largely from straight errors in selection. For these the other members of the committee of public safety, Jean-Claude Skrela and Jo Maso, must take their share of responsibility.

For instance, Emile Ntamack is a world-class wing. That does not make him a world class or even a competent international full-back.

"True, the days are long gone when a wing was considered a try-scoring luxury whose only other function was to throw the ball, usually none too accurately, into the line-out, a pattern with which the French, by the way, persisted for longer than any other nation. Wings and full-backs can sometimes now be exchanged, as outside halves and full-backs always could be and indeed still are."

Ntamack, however, always appeared liable to spill the high ball.

It would have been better to restore him to his proper position and play Jean-Luc Sadourny at full-back. People said he was injured. He was not so injured as to be unable to play for Colonniers against Ulster in the final of the European Cup. When the international season itself was underway, he turned out for France A. The long-term injuries to Christophe Lamaison and Stephane Glas not withstanding, I find it difficult to believe the French could not have come up with two better centres than the ones who took the field on their behalf.

Superficially Jim Telfer, the Scottish coach, could not be more different from Villepreux: a stern Presbyterian to Villepreux's Renaissance prince. Yet it was Scotland rather than France who played the more jewelled and more artistic rugby.

Undoubtedly luck had some part in this. If the half-backs, Bryan

Redpath and Duncan Hodge, had not been injured at the start of the season, Telfer would have had them at scrum-half and outside half respectively. Gregor Townsend at outside centre, and both Gary Armstrong and Alan Tait, two of the best players in the competition, on the substitutes' bench. All these would not have been able to prosper if Stuart Grimes and Scott Murray had not been outstanding in the second row, and Eric Peters and Martin Leslie in the back row. If Bath mess Peters about as they do, one week at No 6, another at No 7 and another on the bench, I am not altogether surprised they are not the force they used to be.

Telfer, by contrast, used the massive Peter Walton intelligently at No 6 as a 60-minute strength-sapper. When up to six substitutes were allowed in internationals for tactical reasons as well as for injuries, I said this could change the

game. So it has proved – up to a point.

I am glad Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, took my advice and fielded an entire reserve front row against England; even gladder that he has got on terms with the Quinn brothers. And Scott Gibbs is now one of the acknowledged Celtic saints, along with Saints Barry, Bledyn, Gareth, Gerald and JPR. It might so easily have ended differently if Thomas Castaignède had kicked his conversion, and Neil Jenkins missed his. Wales and not France might have finished at the bottom of the Five Nations' table.

This, along with the results of the Ireland-France and England-Scotland games, is what I mean by the capriciousness of the scorelines. As it is, all my fellow countrymen have to do to complete their present and doubtless temporary happiness is get the new stadium ready in time for the World Cup.



FOR ALMOST nine months, some punters have been telling themselves that their ante-post bet on Stravinsky for the 2,000 Guineas, struck after his winning debut at York last summer, might yet come good and make them feel awfully clever. Not any more. Stravinsky was an 8-1 chance for the Classic last year, and the same price yesterday morning despite three subsequent defeats, but his name was not among the five-day declarations a few hours later. After all that waiting and hoping, his supporters will not even get a run for their money.

And there are probably a few of them who backed Eitzaaz for the 1,000 Guinees, too. They may well be seeking counselling this morning, following the simultaneous scratching of Godolphin's main contender for the fillies' Classic. "Eitzaaz worked at the weekend but was not 100 per cent after her work and it is too close to the race to have a problem," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "It's a big disappointment, but we are not anticipating a long-term problem. We would be looking at the Irish or French Guineas."

In Stravinsky's absence, his stable-mate Orpen may now start favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, as Aidan O'Brien sets out to win the race for the second year running. Eleven more horses were also scratched, to the relief of the Newmarket executive, which might otherwise have had to ballot horses out of the season's first Classic. There are now 22 entries left, and the track's safety limit is 23.

O'Brien also declared Lavery and Saffron Walden, but his challenge may well rest entirely with Orpen. "We are going to try and do the right thing by Stravinsky," the trainer said.



"We took him out of Newmarket because we were told it had rained overnight and the ground will probably be good at the very best for the 3,000 Guineas. He could go for the French 2,000, but only if the ground is good or quicker."

Godolphin supplies three of the 22 declarations, with Island Sands apparently their main contender, but there is no decision yet about which of them Frankie Dettori will ride.

"Some of the horses have just arrived in this country," Crisford said. "They've had a long journey so we'll have to see how they travelled and make a decision later in the week."

One of the few riding vacancies worth having in the 2,000 Guineas has been hand-

ed to Pat Eddery, who will partner Compton Admiral, the Craven Stakes winner, for Ger-  
ard Butler. Eddery has won the  
race three times, on Lomond,  
El Gran Senor and Zafonic,  
and takes over from Dettori,  
who partnered Compton Ad-  
miral in his successful trial  
over the Classic course and dis-  
tance. "I am delighted to have  
him," Butler said yesterday,  
"but not as delighted as he is  
to get on the horse."

Gary Carter has also picked  
up a ride in the race, though he  
will be more hopeful than con-  
fident on Jeremy Noseda's de-  
scent, a 33-1 chance. In the 1,000-  
Guineas, Ray Cochrane will fill  
another space left vacant by  
Dettori when he rides Valentine  
Waltz, the Nell Gwyn Stakes

winner for John Godsen. Michael Alberts has been booked to ride Lamzena for Geoff Wragg.

Lamzena finished fifth at Valentine Stakes in the Nellwyn Walks, the same position which On The House filled back in 1982 before going on to win the 1,000 for Wragg's father-in-law, Harry. With any encouragement being welcome as the big day approaches, this coincidence has not been lost on Lamzena's trainer. "Though it's something of a long shot I'm hoping that lightning can strike twice," Wragg said.

■ Goodwood are to stage a consolation race for the Stewards' Cup. The Stewards' Sprint Stakes will be held on the Friday of Glorious Goodwood, the day before the Stewards' Cup.

KIM BAILEY is "with great sadness" to sell his yard in Lambourn and set up a new stable at Preston Pines in Northamptonshire. "I have really enjoyed being in Lambourn but the last two years, personally, have taken a very large toll and I wish to start afresh in new surroundings," Bailey said.

Bailey, who intends to cut his stable strength from 80 to 65, is, along with Toby Balding, the only current trainer to have sent out winners of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Champion Hurdle and Grand National.

Away from racing his life has been traumatic and he faces proceedings on a charge of conspiring with a private detective to burglar the home of his former stable jockey Norman Williamson. A pre-committal review of the case commenced at Bow Street Magistrate's Court in London yesterday.

■ Direct Route heads the British party on today's opening day of the Punchestown Festival. Adrian Niagure will replace Paul Carberry on Doran's Pride in tomorrow's Heineken Gold Cup. Carberry is in hospital recovering from emergency surgery on his spleen.

**Betting on the Internet**  
**Market Report, page 17**

1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (1m)		C	H	L	S	T
3545	ATLANTIC DESTINY (19) M Johnston City St	85-1	85-1	50-1	88-1	88-1
286-4	BOONERMAN'S LASSY (16) B Stratton City St	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
1-	BOUNTIFUL LADY (USA) (19) Sr M Skaneateles City St	50-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	40-1
302-	CALAMOND RAY (27) (2) Samed H Skaneateles City St	14-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
17-6	CANSTRAND DAY (USA) (19) B Garden City St	14-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
2183	CIRCLE OF GOLD (19) P Chappaque-Hyden City St	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1	50-1
35-4	EVENING PROMISE (16) B Hildesheim City St	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
7-	FARRY GREEN (283) Samed H Skaneateles City St	21-1	14-1	21-1	14-1	21-1
1020-	FEAR AND GUESS (210) T Sack City St	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	30-1
40-	FRAGRANT DANCE (19) T Clarks City St	100-1	100-1	50-1	50-1	40-1
11-6	GIFFSY ROSE LEE (16) B Methuen City St	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
21-2	GOLDEN SILCA (16) M Champron City St	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
30-	GREENSAND (235) R Harmon City St	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	80-1
1033-	HASTY WORTH (19) T Hile City St	50-1	40-1	25-1	20-1	30-1
202-	HULA ANGEL (USA) (19) T Hile City St	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
22-	IMPERIAL BEAUTY (USA) (215) P Methuen City St	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
4-	JIG (205) P Cane City St	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
002-6	KUNWAT DAWN (18) (2) K Mard City St	200-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
3-6	LAMIZONA (19) G Wagon City St	80-1	80-1	50-1	80-1	50-1
002-	MAGDA (19) (2) C Brown City St	200-1	200-1	200-1	200-1	200-1
2-	MOWRA (19) (214) M C Head (19) City St	7-2	7-2	4-1	7-2	7-2
1-	MOTHER OF PEARL (178) (2) P Chappaque-Hyden City St	2-1	10-1	14-1	10-1	14-1
203-	PESCARA (282) Samed H Skaneateles City St	20-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	14-1
205-	SPRINGSWEAVER (27) (2) A P O'Brien (4) City St	9-2	4-1	4-1	4-1	9-2
402-	VALENTINE WALTZ (18) (2) J Gordon City St	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
205-	WARRIAGE GROUND (19) (2) J Mard City St	14-1	14-1	5-1	5-1	14-1
202-	WYNDIE (19) 4 Cane City St	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1

NE: 27 declared. One 23 was not run. Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Non-runner, Starty)

## PUNCHESTOWN

<b>3.15</b>	<b>COUNTRY PRIDE CHAMPION NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 1)</b>		253,000 mds 2nd Penalty Value £32,860
1	-786	DANCE SO SUITE (22) (G) 26kg 7 12.0	N Williamson
2	-2265	FADOUAL DU COCHET (8) (2) (G) A1, 1 Moors 6 12.0	O Dwyer
3	-3870	GREENSTED (9/4) (G) (2) 18F 11 Moors 6 12.0	B J Graydon
4	-271	BACCHALI (6/8) (G) 14 Henderson (2) 8 11 13	M A Fitzgerald
5	-221	CARDINAL HILL (23) (2) 11 Moors 5 11 13	C P Swan

- BEATING -

10-11 CARDINAL HILL, 3/4 Beccoduff, 5/4 Fadolul Du Cochet, 13-2 Dance So Suite, 10-1 Greensted  
 398: 145 Sog 5 11 3 A P McCoy 6 14 (M Moore) 5 m

**350** **E34,450**

1-2543 DIRECT ROUTE (18) (CD) J Johnson 8 12 0 ..... N Williamson  
1-2293 BIG MATT (68) (CD) Henderson (88) 9 11 0 ..... J M Fitzgerald  
2-12353 CEBARATE (71) (CD) C Mann (83) 8 11 9 ..... R Demerouty  
1-12352 THE MOUNTAIN (21) (CD) M Cunningham 6 7 9 ..... J Barry  
1-12621 GREEN GREEN DESERT (71) (CD) D Nichols (83) 8 11 0 ..... J Tizzard  
6-12633 HILL SOCIETY (20) (CD) M Meade 7 11 6 ..... P McCoy B  
..... B declared

**BETTING:** 6-1 Direct Route, 7-2 Cellstone, 8-1 Space Truckin', Green Green Desert, 8-1 Hill Society, 10-1 Big Matt.  
358: No corresponding race

**52.00** **BRADSTOCK INSURANCE NOTICE CHASE (Grade 3)**  
**\$24,000** added 2m (41) Penalty Value \$15,600

1-1 F1F10 FERRET JUMPER (21) (CD) M J Harrington 6 12 0 ..... B J Goughly  
2-22226 NIS CANA (23) (CD) M Houston 7 11 0 ..... A Maguire  
3-13131 MICKY'S DREAM (21) (CD) W P Mulren 7 12 0 ..... D J Casar  
4-12571 MURDOCK EXPRESS (21) (CD) M M O'Conley 7 11 0 ..... G Coster  
5-12625 THE MAIN (23) (CD) M Cunningham 6 7 11 ..... J Tiley  
6-12577 LORD LEVANS (21) J Murphy 11 11 0 ..... R Callan  
..... 120 1F5-BE-822 (CD) E Borge 5 10 12 ..... R Walsh  
..... 7 declared

**BETTING:** 1F5-The Main, 6-1 Ferret Jumper, Mick's Dream, 8-1 Hill Society, 7-1 Nis Cana, 4-1 The-Mike, 12-1 Lord Levens  
1988: Fiddlers Tune 5 11 P McCoy 7-2 (M Cunningham) 7 11 m

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FIRST SHOW					
BATH 3.30					
	C	H	L	S	T
Heart	5-1	9-2	4-1	9-2	4-1
Manacordis	5-1	10-3	5-2	4-1	4-1
Raspberry Sauce	7-1	13-2	5-1	7-1	7-1
Mr Pious Blues	7-1	8-1	8-1	23-2	7-1
Protonics Waters	5-1	13-2	8-1	13-2	8-1
Cherrybush Glen	10-1	14-1	12-3	23-1	17-1
Harlequin Dances	12-1	10-1	14-2	12-1	17-1
Navy Cut	16-1	14-1	10-1	14-1	19-1
Thoroughbred Lil	12-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Big Tom	14-1	14-1	16-1	18-1	14-1
Shades Silver	14-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Posies Lady	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Lolain	25-4	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Royal Signet	23-1	23-1	23-1	23-1	23-1

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1. The first part of the document is a header section containing the following information:
 

- Page No. 1
- Date: 10/10/2019
- Page No. 1

2. The second part of the document is a table with the following columns:
 

Sl. No.	Name of the Candidate	Grade	Percentage
1	ABHIRAM K	10	100
2	ADARSH K	10	100
3	ADARSH K	10	100
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94	ADARSH K	10	100

CLASS D

**HYPERION**

**2.00 SARANGANI (nap) 4.00 Lord Bankes**  
**2.30 Bring Sweets 4.30 Johnny Staccato**  
**3.00 Inya Lake 5.00 Rada's Daughter**  
**3.30 Tui**

**GOING: 5pm**  
**STALLS:** Seated course - for sale, round course - made.  
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low bet 5 & 11 161yds;  
 \* Left-hand course: Four turning in-bends to the left and is uphill all the way  
 \* Course is 2m 10m at city near A431. Both station 2m. Admissions free. CAR PARK: 24; Tents: 12  
 \* Silver 10m; 2m; Course 12. Completed under 135 min. **CAR PARK:** 24; Tents: 12  
 of course 17 for car bus driver and 12 for each passenger; remainder free.

**FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS**

\* **LEADING TRAINERS:** M Channon 14-13 (24%); R Charlton 3-47 (27.1%); J Bolding 13-75 (17.5%); P Corrie 12-59 (16.3%); B Hillis 11-35 (20.8%); J Hills 11-57 (16.3%);  
 \* **WINNERS:** 20-15 (25.6%); 22-15 (25.2%); 1-20 (10.3%); 1-20 (10.3%); 1-20 (10.3%); 1-20 (10.3%);  
 \* **FAVOURITES:** 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%);  
 \* **TONGUE STRAPS:** Nemat (33.0); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%);  
 \* **PRIZES:** 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%); 1-21 (22.2%);

<b>2.00</b>	<b>BLATWYTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) \$5,250 added</b>	
	<b>3/20 1m 2t 46yds Penalty Value \$3,812</b>	
	<b>ASHGAR (USA) (Prince Abdul Aziz S Saoud C Britain 90)</b>	<b>P Rabinson 9</b>
	<b>Q DASHING (HNS) (Mammoth Farm Paces Ltd L G Control 90)</b>	<b>A Day 58</b>
	<b>Q DE BALLIO (L) (Stables Mohammed 8 Hills 90)</b>	<b>M Jinks 12</b>
	<b>Q44 GROUNDWATER FLIES (USA) (Jockey House Farm 90)</b>	<b>F Feltz 9</b>
	<b>Q KAFI (USA) (R01) (Hamdan Al Maktoum M Tregony 90)</b>	<b>E Alham 4</b>
	<b>MIGRATION (K Australia R Chanton 90)</b>	
	<b>NRTHWYING (B) (Jockey David J Whitehead 8 Hills 90)</b>	<b>T Spink 6</b>
	<b>Q45 JESSIE (LIT) (USA) (Jockey Barbara Lutz B Maltman 90)</b>	<b>B Garm 10</b>
	<b>5-25 PRINCE SLAYER (B) (Mahmed Abdul-Owied B Smart 80)</b>	<b>J Slack 11</b>
	<b>SARANGANI (Prizez Hatters) (Bading 90)</b>	<b>K Fulton 3</b>
	<b>WOODCOCKE (USA) (Jockey David J Whitehead 8 Hills 90)</b>	<b>M Feltz 9</b>
	<b>Q46MMA (Hamdan Al Maktoum A Smart 80)</b>	<b>R Hills 2</b>
	- 12 declared	

## FORM GUIDE

**Ashgrove:** Blen Blen 1st out of an Affirmed mare  
**Dashing:** Last until 3rd out, but then weakened rapidly when 12th off at Unghed (44%  
1st in November. Stable have made a quiet start  
**Debut:** Freshly Unghed in his last season. Made late headway first time out  
when 6th to Derby entry Muhiatfi at Asoca (7) and sound chance in this much lower grade  
**Greenover Fairy:** Gilded since last season and looked to need further when starting on under  
penance to Irish 7th of 10 to Melton at Newmarket (14 good) 2 weeks ago  
**High:** Fresh to 20 out when 1st in the 1000 Guineas (10) on only last season at  
Newmarket (1st good) in September. Was a northern 2nd class top race, so may do better  
**Magnificent:** Rainbow Queen out of a Northern Dancer mare and entered in Epsom Derby  
on 10th April. He has been a bit of a disappointment since his experience when 15th of 17  
to Seacraft Out (Pencey Silver) 3rd at Windsor (10 good to firm) last week  
**Power:** His French import, no show in 2 outings there on soft ground last season  
**Prince Sleyer:** Stopped up to this trip to Windsor (good to firm) last week when one placed 3rd  
out of 20. Should with a maiden, but up against some unknown quantities from the bigger  
yards here  
**Sarragunt:** Polish Provedent out of a Shilley Heights mare, 1st in Epsom Derby  
**Woodville:** Winner: Pushed along last time out of 14, 1st in 2nd Epsom Emulation on debut at  
Newmarket (11 good to firm) 1st out of 14, so may need further  
**Atzsume:** Unworn 10th out of a Riverton mare, who won over 10'

**VERDICT:** With Barry Hills in cracking form it may be worth siding with DE BALL-O-  
LLOO, who not without reason for which to David Loder's Muhiatfi on soft ground at  
Newmarket, but the combination of Dashing and Sarragunt, who may run at Work race,  
are both likely to be above average.

**2.30** TATTENHAM CORNER STAKES (CLASS C) £9,000 Hills 5  
 3YO 1m 2f 46yds Penalty Value £5,410

1 02-23 BRING SWEETS (20) (W J Goodley) B Hills 9 1 Hills 5  
 2 10-02 MARMARUA (9) (Aan Brooks) Syndicate 3989 J Cumani 8 13 R Phinch 1  
 3 13-07 PRIDE OF DINGLE (10) (W Dawson) M Biff 9 3 M Fenlon 2  
 4 10-02 CULZEAN (26) (Borah Smith Stand Farms) R Harmon 8 1 Dane O'Neill 4  
 5 31- DEAL FAIR (20) (Baron G von Ullmann) H Cecil 8 1 K Fallon 3  
 - 5 declared -

BETTING: 15-16 Deal Fair 2-1 Bring Sweets 4-1 Culzean 5-1 Marmarua, 16-1 Pride Of Dingle  
 9-10 Sacken 9 1 K Fallon 6-4 Jay (H Cecil) drawn (2 ran)

**Biting Sweetie:** Won twice on soft ground over 1m last season and may have found the going too heavy when 3rd at Ripon (6f, good to firm) on Wednesday. Looks sure to stay this autumn taking home the title.

**Masterpiece:** Won minor event at San Siro (7f, soft) in October. Weathered after some head-heat 2nd out when 6th of 7 at Newmarket (1m, good to soft) last Thursday, but bred to stay here.

**Pride of Dingling:** Maiden winner at San Siro (7m, heavy) last year. Desappointing last in both starts for season and looks underdone.

**Cutieson:** Leicester maiden 2nd (7f, good to soft) on debut in September. Son beaten when driven along 2nd when last of 7 at Sandown (6f, good) next time and that run is probably best overfaded.

**Dawn's Maiden:** Made when dead-head, 3rd first place at Salisbury (7m, heavy) in September. Stable won last year and looks type to improve over a trip.

**VERDICT:** This ground will put **BITING SWEETS** more than the last season's mare he ran on at Ripon on his reappearance. He really came into his own when he met soft going last season and finished second in a Listed race on his final outing on heavy ground at Saint-Cloud in November.

**3.00** added fillies & mares of Penalty Value £12,196

1	2042	CARLUE LASS (30) (D) P O'Leary P O'Brien 590	K Fallon 3
2	2043	ELLYN STAR (14) (D) P Meredith C P Leamy 4	P Robinson 5
3	3001	ILMA LAKE (24) (D) B Mirny M Channon 381	Q Quinn 2
4	1994	BALLY STAR (14) (D) Eilley Rangi B Hanbury 384	W Ryan 1
5	2240	KASTAWAY (22) (D) JFJ C J Harpur D Corcoran 354	N Pollard 4

—B—

**BETTING:** 4-5 Iyla Lake, 4-1 Carlue Lass, 5-1 Ellynn Star, 7-1 Eastern Lytle, 10-1 Kaskeway  
1998: No corresponding race

## FORM GUIDE

**Carlisle Lasse:** both rider **Acts** on soft ground and obviously, had to assess her one success from 15 outings came in a listed race over this trip at Tippecanoe, in 1987.

**Eastern Lyrle:** Drops back to her best trip after 2 outings over at H. Probably needed first outing since September when 11m of 3 at Goodwood (1 good) 2 weeks ago. Perhaps has to win on own.

**Iryna Lasse:** Group 3 going at Newmarket (1st good to 3rd in July. Showed she is going the right way when making a successful reappearance in listed race at Haydock (1st good) Will be hard to beat.

**Elizaveta Lasse:** Lynfield maiden (1st good to 11m) went in August. Hard task on reappearance when 5m of 11 in listed race at Newmarket (7 good) and drop back to trip looks against her.

**Kastaneya:** Successful 4 times in minor events over this trip last season for Jack Berry. Beaten 5 lengths by Iryna Lasse (3rd) when 4th at Aegean Flame at Newbury (3rd good) in July and only 11m ago.

**VERDICT:** The applicants in ideal opportunity for **IRYNA LASSE** to follow up her game success when her reappearance at Haydock this month. Mick Channon's improving filly loves come out in the ground and this event looks tailor-made for her.

[illegible]

## FORM GUIDE

**Phantom Winger:** Won twice over 7 fms last season on last ground. Satisfactory reappearance when 4th to Dulux at Windsor (100' good) this month, but doubt about her timing on the going.

**Beecon Silver:** Placed twice in midweek when last run on dirt at 1987 (trained by Lord Hunt-ington). Winner over hurdles (2nd, good) at Chesham in October, but 1st starting since then (1987). 1st on 11 fms last season, but 2nd on 10 fms last season. 1st on 10 fms last season.

**Winnor:** First run for new yard, well handicapped on 6 fms in the 1896 November Handicap and Kieran Fallon looking significant.

**Raspberry Sugar:** Won the last season on 10 fms a 1/2 higher mark, but races mainly at AW nowadays. Last run on turf when 6th to Milswood here (100' good), 10th better off for 8 fms' length.

**Foxy Lady:** Last handicapped, placed 3 times over 7 fms when trained by Ed Dutton last season. No improvement when tried on AW last month and unlikely to stay trip on the grass.

**Hill Fawn Blues:** At soft ground, won at Nottingham (2nd, soft) in October of a 26 lbw mark, but seems to need much more of a stamina test now.

**Royal Signature:** Failed to make the frame in 4 midweek and a handicap last season, yet 1st on 10 fms last season, 1st on 10 fms last season, 1st on 10 fms last season.

**Tut:** Out of form recently, but 26 lbw there when successful at Newmarket 17 fms, good to firm in August. No encouragement on AW last 4 outings and 1st run on turf since September.

**Milswood:** Won 3 of 10 handicaps last season for Gary Moore and 4th above her highest weight and 2nd below her best weight when 3rd time for 3rd time at Palace last month and interesting prospect on this return to the flat.

4lb lower mark at Wervick (1m, good to firm) in August. First run since September and ground could pose a problem.

**Debutante:** Breeze. Inconsistent nowadays, has not won since 1997 (seller off an 8lb lower mark). Probably better on faster ground, though fair start on heavy going when 4th at Foleshill (6f) last time.

**Market:** Last time he had his first success at the 7th attempt for 17th's ride of a 1lb lower mark at Sandown (1m, good) in September. First run since November and likely to find this too competitive.

**Latest:** Handicap debut and show signs of stamina in claims and maidens last season. Estate has been his best trainer for over 8 months.

**Shanghai:** 1lb Useful on AW (has won 6 times at distances up to 1 1/4m) but yet to win 1 1/4m, 4lb higher than when 5th at 2lb Arcle Fancy on only run on turf at Newbury (1 1/4m, good) in September.

**VERDICT:** This could concern the two who return to the Flat after a successful spell over hurdles - **HEARTY** and **HEARTY** both with Gerard Butler. Heart needs particular care in the run in. **22b:** lower mark than when eighth, best in lengths, to Clifton Fox on soft ground in the 1996 Doncaster Handicap for Michael Stoute.

[illegible]

Low numbers in the draw sometimes have an advantage, but this is likely to be negated if, as is often the case on soft ground, the field races towards the centre in the straight. It should pay to concentrate on the form details of MIGHTIGA and Lord *Barabas* unless the market indicates otherwise. The latter has the edge (on a line through Desert Safari and Cowboys And Angels), but Meniglas proven ability on soft earns him preference.

[illegible]

### FORM GUIDE

**Sammy: Returns to turf after being pulled 3 times from 8 outings an A/V. Won a 2 and half or mark for Jay McInerney in 1986, but has been out of form and out of turf since July.**  
**Bramble Belle: Won once from 12 outings last season over 3f (good) and on the same track, then. Acts on soft going, but does against her and stable have to let it form.**  
**Blackberry: Won 2 of 10 outings last season over 3f (good) and on the same track. 1st 2 of 3 the month, but took last out on 8th October.**  
**Vis Presidencita: Won 2 of 7 outings for Tim Sheehy last season. No form after leaving.**  
**Blackberry: Won 1 of 2 outings and first race on 1st October, but has been out of form since.**  
**Kathleen Page: Won twice over 6f on ground last season. First outing since October.**

**Piccolo: California: Swilled by 6f or 5f off 3f and made a successful reappearance in apprentice handicap at Catmuck (8f) last week, so sound chance of the same mark.**  
**Blackberry: Won 2 of 10 outings last season over 3f (good) and on the same track. First outing since finishing 6th 3 (Gallop) 6th 3 (Maiden) 6th 3 (Maiden) at Whittington 6th in January.**

[illegible]

1R 21 42yos penalty value \$2,780

1	60-	RHALL (B) (98)	(Charmery Bourne) M 1 Mills 97	L Carter 8
2	3000-	STANLEY (B) (98)	(Dorothy) M 1 Mills 97	L Macley 13
3	13-00	BOS PRINCESS (B) (d)	Jr Woyne P Charrings B 3	R Parrott 12
4	60-	ODYSSEY (B) (d)	G O'Clery P Warren 93	W Ryan 1
5	0000-	BARBET SWIFT (B) (98)	(McDonald) M 1 Mills 97	L Patton 2
6	0000-	CABINET SWEET (B) (98)	(Thompson) M 1 Hann 97	L Patton 2
7	54300-	GARY SWEET (H82)	(J) M 2 D Smith 82	M Pollard 28
8	0050-	MILL APPOINCE (B) (98)	(Charmery) C Batten 8	M Hill 28
9	0000-	FUDGE (B) (d)	Woyne P Charrings B 3	L Macley 13
0	000-	LUCKY LINDA (172)	P S Weyland J Duff 83	B 3
1	0004-	BRASSIVE VISION (77)	(J K Gale) J Amold 84	S Sandes 4
2	0000-	MATHIE KILL (B) (98)	(Dorothy) M 1 Mills 97	L Macley 13
3	00-00	WHO GOES THERE (B) (98)	(J K Gale) P Parvathing 1 M Jones 1	Jones Wanda 17

13 declared -

Minimum weight 74 100. Two handicaps weights: Hannah Rhonda 74 50; Who Goes There 74 20.

BETTING: 3-4 Favorite, 5-10 Second, 10-1 Third, 10-1 Fourth, 8-1 Cabaret Sweet, Mill Africa, 10-1 Brava Vision, Lucky Linda, 14-1 Odyssey, 16-1 others

98's: Cassed 14 7 13 J Lw 5-2 (P) Durtel dand 13 3 n

Rose Hill: Overcame slow start for winning debut at Warwick (7 good to firm) last season. Unplaced on first handicap race at Newmarket (7m, good) in October. Ground may be against her Metairie jags. Placed in 3 maidens last season, always behind on handicap debut at Kempton (8m, good to firm). Time for this race may be allowed to stay, so important possible for a Privateer to claim season award here (8m, good to firm) in August.

Stable Handicap: No improvement when 11th of 12 at Windsor (7m, good to firm). Viewed first time Oxydyssey: Handicap debut, ran in quite competitive maiden company last season and first attempt at stay. Stable Handicap not had a Flat winner for over 7 months.

Stable Handicap: Handicap debut, ran in competitive maiden company last season and ran as if race was needed for reappearance when 7th of 10 to Maiden's Blush at Windsor (7m, good to firm). Acts as Unplaced in 3 maidens last season. Paces her hand in handicap when 13th of 10 to Maiden's Blush at Windsor (7m, good to firm) on previous run. Has yet to backle step out.

Blister Buses: Signs of ability in maidens and Nurseries last season. Disappointing effort on final outing when 9th of 10 in maiden season here (7m, heavy) in October.

Mill Attraction: Showed a little ability on handicap debut at Leicester (7m, good) when tailed off 13th of 10 behind Duke at Windsor (7m, good) and behind Duke on handicap debut at Windsor (7m, good) when 10th of 10. Consistent (8m, good to firm) poor form in 2 runs on AW.

Hung like a lion: 2nd to Captain Miller on handicap debut at Leicester (7m, good to soft).

Lucky Land: Ran as if she needs further when unplaced in 3 bodied maidens. Out of a half-sister to Silver Peltach and chance here with stable continuing in fine form.

Stable Handicap: Showed a little ability in maidens and Nurseries last season. Compton Armica at Folkestone (8m, soft) last month. Should not be far away over this longer trip.

**VERDICT:** A wide-open event in which the booking of Walker Fallon for RADA'S DAUGHTER could prove significant. Jan Baldridge's filly had the third run she needed to qualify for handicaps at Windsor two weeks ago and was not hurt in her seventh on ground that was probably too fast for her.

350  
\$34,450

1	2543	DIRECT ROUTE (18) (C2) J Johnson 8 12 0	N Williamson
2	1293	BIG MATT (66) (C) Henderson 135 9 11	J M Fitzgerald
3	1293	CELEBRATE (71) (C) M Mann 83 8 10 9	R Demerouty
4	1293	THE MOUNTAIN (21) (C) M Mann 83 8 10 9	A J Barry
5	1292	GREEN GREEN DESERT (71) (C) Nichols 83 8 10	J Tizzard
6	12933	HILL SOCIETY (20) (C) M Meade 7 11 6	B McCoy B

8 declared

BETTING: 6-4 Direct Route, 7-2 Cellstone, 8-1 Space Truckee, Green Green Desert, 8-1 Hill Society, 10-1 Big Matt.

358: No corresponding race

**BRADSTOCK INSURANCE NOTICE CHASE (Grade 3)**  
**\$24,000 added 2m (41) Penalty Value \$15,600**

1	PIF10	FERRIST JUNIOR (27) (C) M A Johnston 6 12 0	B J Goughly
2	22326	INS CANA (23) (C) M Houston 7 12 0	A Maguire
3	1313G	MICKY'S DREAM (21) (D) W P Mulren 7 12 0	D J Cascone
4	1257R	MIDNIGHT EXPRESS (21) (C) M M P O'Conley 7 12 0	G Costello
5	1257S	THE MAIN (23) (C) M M P O'Conley 6 11 0	J Tiley
6	1257S	LORD LEVANS (21) J Murphy 7 11 0	R Callahan
7	120	ITS-THE-BEST (22) E Beger 5 10 12	R Walsh

7 declared

BETTING: 15-4 The Main, 6-1 Ins Cana, Mick's Dream, 8-1 Midnight Express, 7-1 Lord Leans, 4-1 The-Best, 12-1 Lord Levens

1988: Fodders Tune 5 11 A P McCoy 7-2 (M Cunningham) 7 m

## RESULTS

### SOUTHWELL

Going, Standard

2.15 (m emulators handicap)  
**1. PINE RIDGE LAD** (m) Mr S Walker 6-1  
 2. Tom Mr S Bosley 10-1  
 3. Pursuivant Mrs A Dempsey 14-1  
 4. Almazan Miss Alice Dixon 16-1  
 Also ran: Mr J J Davis Domino Fairy (5th),  
 Johnnie The Joker, 2cs Denbora, 10-1  
 Danter 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1  
 25-1 Grovelar Lad (5th), Lay The Blame  
 Society King, 33-1 Awesome Venture, 50-1

16 m, kn, h, kn, 1 1/4, kn, 3/4, 1/4 L Harris,  
 Metamorphosis, Time: 2:58.50, 2:50.00, 2:58.50,  
 2:58.00, 2:22.00, DF: 2:59.50, CSF: 2:55.21, Tho:  
 2:58.50

2.45 (m 41 claiming stakes)  
**1. ALSAIBH** (m) Martin Dwyer 5-1  
 2. Count De Money Quinn 6-1  
 3. Overman Kall Fillion 7-2 fav  
 Also ran: 4-1 Hill Farm Dancer 10-1, 11-1  
 Moonraking (3rd), State Approval (3rd), 25-1

4.18 (2c 2yo colting stakes)  
**1. FOOKEY** K Fallon 6-11 fav  
 2. Salsola 14-1  
 3. New York Girl G Carter 7-1  
 Also ran: 7-2 Breakish Fairy (6th), 9-1 Parts  
 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1,  
 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 26-1, 27-1,  
 28-1, 29-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1,  
 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-1, 41-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1,  
 46-1, 47-1, 48-1, 49-1, 50-1, 51-1, 52-1, 53-1, 54-1,  
 55-1, 56-1, 57-1, 58-1, 59-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-1,  
 64-1, 65-1, 66-1, 67-1, 68-1, 69-1, 70-1, 71-1, 72-1,  
 73-1, 74-1, 75-1, 76-1, 77-1, 78-1, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1,  
 82-1, 83-1, 84-1, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1, 88-1, 89-1, 90-1,  
 91-1, 92-1, 93-1, 94-1, 95-1, 96-1, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1,  
 100-1. The winner was sold for 5000 guineas

4.45 (H fillies & mares handicap)  
**1. MARY ANN** E Edwards 10-1  
 2. Crystal Lanes E Edwards 10-1  
 3. Little Lily L Dettori 5-2 fav  
 4. Mary Ann 7-2  
 Also ran: 9-2 Indian King, 10-1 E Pearl Punt  
 11-1, Patsy Selkie (9th), Queen Thelma, Sight  
 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1,  
 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 26-1, 27-1,  
 28-1, 29-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1,  
 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-1, 41-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1,  
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 82-1, 83-1, 84-1, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1, 88-1, 89-1, 90-1,  
 91-1, 92-1, 93-1, 94-1, 95-1, 96-1, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1,  
 100-1. The winner was sold for 5000 guineas

5.15 (m 2c 2yo colting stakes)  
**1. FOOKEY** K Fallon 7-2 fav  
 2. Salsola 14-1  
 3. New York Girl G Carter 7-1  
 Also ran: 7-2 Breakish Fairy (6th), 9-1 Parts  
 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1,  
 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 26-1, 27-1,  
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 91-1, 92-1, 93-1, 94-1, 95-1, 96-1, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1,  
 100-1. The winner was sold for 5000 guineas

[illegible]

FIRST SHOW					
BATH 3.30					
	C	H	L	S	T
Heart	5-1	9-2	4-1	9-2	4-1
Manacordis	5-1	10-3	5-2	4-1	4-1
Raspberry Sauce	7-1	13-2	5-1	7-1	7-1
Mr Porro Blues	7-1	8-1	8-1	23-2	7-1
Proctor's Waters	5-1	13-2	8-1	13-2	8-1
Cheshamby Hill	10-1	14-1	12-3	23-1	17-1
Harley Dances	12-1	10-1	14-2	12-1	17-1
Navy Cut	16-1	14-1	10-1	14-1	19-1
Cheshamby Hill	12-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Tail	14-1	14-1	16-1	18-1	14-1
Beacons Silver	14-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Posies Lady	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Lolans	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Royal Signet	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1



# Guyana faces boycott by Australians

AUSTRALIA'S CRICKET authorities will not sanction a return to trouble-prone Guyana until they are sure improved security measures have been taken in the wake of further crowd violence in the West Indies.

The Australian Cricket Board considered the frightening scenes at the final one-day international in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Sunday as way out of character for cricket fans on the island. But the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, the ACB and the players' union none the less voiced their disgust at the events in Bridgetown so soon after two crowd invasions in Georgetown, Guyana, last week.

The Barbados crowd pulled the Australian team with bottles after the controversial run-out of the home-town hero Sherwin

BY BRIAN CRICKEN  
in Bridgetown, Barbados

Campbell - and one of the missiles missed the head of the touring captain, Steve Waugh, by inches, prompting him to claim he had feared for his life. Last Wednesday a chaotic invasion of the Bourda ground in Guyana ruined the result of the fifth one-day match and attracted widespread condemnation. An ACB spokesman, Michael Hogan, said yesterday that the board considered the latest events as "totally unacceptable". He added that the ACB chief executive, Malcolm Speed, would raise safety fears at an International Cricket Council meeting in London next month.

"We won't be going back to Guyana unless things change," Hogan said. "Barbados isn't quite the same situation - as Malcolm says, the Bajans are very enthusiastic and easy-going cricket lovers."

Yesterday, the ICC chief executive, David Richardson, reacted quickly to condemn the violence and outline what he believes the West Indian Cricket Board should do to minimise the possibility of crowd trouble. "These are very unsatisfactory incidents, they were very ugly indeed," Richardson said. "The two events involved different behaviour but they were equally worrying. There are a number of things that we have to do. We have to send a strong message out to fans everywhere that you can't put players at risk. They are there to entertain and



The Australian players (from left) Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehman and Brendon Julian are protected by police as they leave the field in Bridgetown on Sunday after supporters threw bottles from the stands. *Allyport*

it is too much to expect them to put up with it." Richardson called into question security measures taken at Caribbean grounds. "The bottom line is that you can't throw bottles if you're not allowed to have them inside the ground," he said. "At most cricket grounds the world over you are not allowed to take bottles

into games. The West Indies cricket authorities will have to look at that."

But in World Cup year when the planet's cricketing calendar converge in England, Richardson dismissed suggestions that the upsurge might be racially motivated. "This is not down to racial tension," he said. "The Australian Cricketers

Association president, Tim May, was disgusted but not surprised at the crowd disturbances and called on the International Cricket Council to establish a committee to rate all international venues on security factors. And the Australian captain, Steve Waugh, said: "You can't risk blazes' safety for a game of cricket. It was sheer luck a bot-

le didn't hit someone on the head. It's only a matter of time before someone gets killed."

Howard joined the condemnation of the crowd behaviour. "I think it is quite distressing that mob violence and mob intimidation can have an impact on the game," he said. "It does appear... the umpire's decision was altered as a result."

## NOTTINGHAM

2.15 Split The Aces 2.45 Selkirk Rose 3.15 Barringer 3.45 Chambré Separee (nb) 4.15 Hadege 4.45 Tom Jem 5.15 Andaman

GOING: Heavy (Soft in places).  
STALLS: Inside except 51 & 61 - stands sold.  
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High Odds 8.5 to 10.0.  
Left-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.  
Course is 2m 61 of 1986. Nottingham station 2m. ADMIS-  
SION: Club £55 (Juniors, 15-21 years, £25). Tattersall's £10 (Juniors, 15-21 years, £7). Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: J. Dunlop 20-32 (62.5%), M. Cecil 15-35 (43.3%), J. Lamberton 14-41 (61.9%), S. M. Bennett 10-42 (23.8%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: K. Fallon 22-188 (77%), T. Sprague 22-179 (23.3%), G. Duffield 20-128 (56.6%), L. Dettorf 17-77 (22.1%).

FAVOURITES: 221-609 (33%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Blushing Fly, Golden Ace £50, Blunkered First Time: Blushing Fly (245), Mysticism (245), Andaman (520).

2.15 RACE SPONSORSHIP AT NOTTINGHAM

RACING STAKES (G) £2,500 3YO 6F

1. 20.50 CLARANNA (7) D. Fallon 8.5 to 10.0. J. Lamberton 14-41 (61.9%), S. M. Bennett 10-42 (23.8%).

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# Argentinian who trained with Maradona is now unemployed in Croydon thanks to disastrous transfer

## Palace break Boca junior's heart

THERE CAN be few stranger stories in Crystal Palace's recent turbulent past than the curious tale of Walter Del Rio. A year ago the 22-year-old Argentinian midfielder was a promising squad player for Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires, trained with Diego Maradona, and was hoping one day to play for his country.

Today, after a bizarre eight-month stay at Selhurst Park, Del Rio is a victim of the crisis that has seen Palace go into administration with debts of £22m. The club has not paid him for two months, despite the fact that he is under contract. He lives by himself in a flat in Croydon, wondering whether the ballfests are about to evict him or repossess his car. The club pays his rent but Del Rio says Palace have given no indication when they will stop. The same goes for the repayments on his car, which Palace had been deducting from his salary.

When Del Rio came to England, Palace had just been bought by Mark Goldberg and Terry Venables had been installed as the coach. There were few signs that, less than a year later, Palace would be in the midst of a financial crisis.

Del Rio arrived in August, one of three Argentinians who were brought to Selhurst Park last summer. According to a recent leaked letter from Jim McAvoy, who resigned as Palace's chief executive earlier this year, finding the three players and bringing them to London cost Palace £448,769 in agents' fees and expenses alone, before any contracts were signed. A further £187,500, according to McAvoy, was paid in transfer fees.

The signing of the first two Argentinians was trumpeted in the club programme - one of them was even photographed wearing a Palace shirt - but Pablo Rodriguez (of Argentinos Juniors) then failed a medical and went home, and Cristian Ledesma (a club-mate and Under-21 international teammate of Rodriguez) returned to

BY NICK HARRIS

Argentina because he was unhappy with the deal offered. Only Del Rio remained. He joined the club on a one-year contract with an option for a further three if things worked out.

The total reward for Palace's Argentinian escapade - at an estimated cost of nearly £900,000 - has been one first-team start by Del Rio, plus one substitute appearance and a handful of outings in the reserves. Goldberg, when asked last week about the cost of the deals, said only: "Your figures are wrong."

Del Rio said that he only travelled to England after being told that Venables had been impressed by watching a video of him in action. He had made 10 appearances for Boca Juniors and had trained with the Argentinian Under-21 squad. "I was very excited to have the chance to play for Crystal Palace," Del Rio said yesterday. A trial followed and Del Rio signed his deal.

On 19 September, he got his first chance of first team football, playing in a 4-0 defeat at Barnsley. "I was surprised to be in the team," Del Rio said afterwards, though he relished the opportunity. In the next match, a 1-0 home win against Sheffield United, he was brought on as a substitute and felt he was progressing. The club's coach, Terry Fenwick, even came on to the pitch afterwards, put his arm around the player, and said: "You did very well today. Well done." It was Del Rio's last appearance in the first team.

"Perhaps Steve Coppell didn't like my football, but no one ever talked to me or told me why" David Ashdown

According to a source at the club, this lack of communication was not unusual. New players - Chinese, Swedish, Israeli, Australian and Yugoslavian among them - were arriving all the time. "At times, there wouldn't even have been any-



Walter Del Rio trains alone - "Perhaps Steve Coppell didn't like my football, but no one ever talked to me or told me why" David Ashdown

one to meet new players at the airport if someone from the training ground hadn't been sent off to Heathrow with a placard saying 'Crystal Palace', an insider said.

In March, after the scale of Palace's financial problems had become apparent, Del Rio received a two-sentence letter signed by the club secretary, Michael Hurst. "This is to confirm that Crystal Palace Football Club have given you a free transfer. You have the club's authority to seek future employment with any other club," it read. Del Rio was not paid in March.

A second letter, dated 13 April, said: "I, as secretary, acting with the authority and on behalf of the Club, hereby give notice that the Club will cancel your contract on 30 June 1999." Again it was signed by Hurst. The club had decided to terminate Del Rio's contract (which it is entitled to do) after one year. It also stopped paying him - presumably because his services were seen as the most expendable. The Israeli David Amaleon appears to be in the same

situation, but, unlike Del Rio, he no longer trains at the club. "I'm very worried," Del Rio said yesterday of his current situation. "It's very difficult. I sent my last pay home and now I have no money." Del Rio's wages make a real difference to his mother, who lives with his two brothers near Buenos Aires (his father died 13 years ago). Del Rio still goes into training every day to ensure he cannot be accused of breach of contract. "Now I train on my own. It's very difficult. I cannot spend time training with the other players."

Brendon Batson, the deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "We are pursuing the administrators to ensure the players get paid."

"We're not in a position to do anything else. The only guarantee I can give the players is that, if the club stays in business, all the players, present and past, will be paid in full." Neil Fewings, the agent who has now been asked to look after Del Rio's interests, said he could do no more than ask the PFA to intervene. He added: "We're trying to find an alternative situation for Walter, looking at all avenues. He has a great attitude. He's not one of these players who've come over here thinking he's owed a living. He's a lovely bloke, just looking to get on, play football, and prove himself somewhere."

Del Rio, whose Italian grandfather means he has no permit problems, added: "At the moment I'm looking for a new club. Any club. In London, in England." Anywhere but SE25, in fact.

Another definite starter is Reading's defender Barry Hunter, who has fully recovered from a knee injury and will be making his first international appearance for 24 months. The Canadian squad contains no fewer than 11 players with British or Irish clubs, including the defenders Mark Watson of Oxford United and Richard Hastings of Inverness Caledonian Thistle, plus the Northampton Town striker Carlo Corazzini.

Manchester United's Roy Keane and Denis Irwin have pulled out of the Republic of Ireland squad to play Sweden in tomorrow's friendly in Dublin. The Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, has called up Kevin Kilbane of West Bromwich and Fulham's Steve Finnan from his Under-21 squad, plus Stoke's Graeme Kavanagh. Canadian and Swedish squads, Digest, page 23

## Cootie steps in to solve crisis

BY DAVID ANDERSON

LAWRIE MCMENEMY has turned to Norwich City's reserve-team striker Adrian Cootie to solve Northern Ireland's goalscoring problems.

Cootie will make his senior debut in tonight's friendly against Canada at Windsor Park, Belfast, and Northern Ireland's manager hopes he can boost his side's flagging firepower - they have scored just three times in their last five games.

"The big search is for forwards and we all know we need goals," McMenemy said. "Iain Dowie is not going to go on forever and I want to see how people like Adrian Cootie react to playing on the bigger stage."

Cootie, 20, has made just four appearances for Norwich's first team this season. He has earned his chance because James Quinn, the West Bromwich striker, injured his knee against Wolves in Sunday's First Division fixture and has become the 11th player to pull out of McMenemy's squad.

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Canadian and Swedish squads, Digest, page 23

## THE INDEPENDENT Luxury Hotel Offer

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have teamed up with the newly combined Hilton and Stakis Hotels to offer readers '2 nights for the price of 1' at hotels around the country. As part of the celebration of this merger you can enjoy two nights' accommodation, including breakfast, in a range of three to five star hotels from as little as £19.25 per person per night.\*



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Hotel	1 night (low)	2 nights (low)	3 nights (low)
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Stakis Edinburgh Grosvenor	£42.00	£35.50	
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Stakis Leeds	£27.00	£23.50	
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Hilton National Bristol*		£27.50	
Stakis Bristol	£33.00	£27.00	
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CENTRAL LONDON			
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Hilton Belfast**		£33.00	
Stakis Park Templepatrick	£39.00	£33.00	
Stakis Dublin	£45.00	£45.00	
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Stakis Dartford Bridge	£29.50	£25.50	
The Palmes Hotel Homchurch		£20.50	
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Hilton National Stansted Airport		£19.50	
Hilton National Wembley		£22.50	
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## SPORT

SOUTNESS' LISBON LESSON P22 PAUPER AT THE PALACE P22

## Keegan insists his kids can cope

FOOTBALL IS not good at perspective. The hatred shown towards Manchester United by Leeds supporters at Elland Road on Sunday, at the same time as the nearby airport received refugees from an extreme manifestation of tribal intolerance, underlined that.

Yesterday, as England flew towards the Balkans, Kevin Keegan sought to show the game's better side and enable some good to come out of the increasingly pointless trip to Hungary for tomorrow's friendly. Keegan, in tune as usual with the popular pulse, asked the players to donate a portion of their match fees to the Kosovo

**FOOTBALL**  
BY GLENN MOORE  
in Budapest

Crisis Appeal. It will not be that much, the players are on £1,500-a-man fees, but it showed that the sport was not entirely unaware of the society in which it operates.

"It is something I believe we should do," said Keegan, "a gesture to show we care. We are about to enter an area where there is a war going on next door and I definitely believe this is something the England football team needs to do."

Budapest is 200 miles from

Belgrade and there was some nervousness about tomorrow's fixture with Sol Campbell, who has since withdrawn through injury, expressing his disquiet at the weekend. Now England are here, however, the only indication of any concern is a slight increase in security. Keegan added: "I am happy with the security arrangements. We wouldn't be going if there was a problem. One thing I know, the game should go ahead."

Most of the players here would agree - for several it represents a massive opportunity. Francis Jeffers could have been playing for Everton in tonight's FA Youth Cup semi-final, in-

stead he will be training with the national team. The 18-year-old could even make his debut tomorrow though fellow Merseysiders, team-mate Michael Ball and Liverpool's Jamie Carragher, who were also called up on Sunday evening, are more likely candidates for an international start.

"Carragher has a very mature attitude and won't be out of place in an England squad," said Keegan. "He can fulfil a number of positions but I believe his place is on the right side of a back three. It allows me to change the formation. Ball has been on the fringes of the squad and has progressed

in a difficult season for Everton. The chance for Jeffers has come very early but his confidence is sky high. He scored a terrific goal on Saturday with a very clever run, an international-type run. I liked that. I am a firm believer we have got to reward the kids when we have a chance."

Which is one way of putting it. Cynics might suggest that, with Premiership managers reluctant to release players, Keegan is better off bringing in youngsters whose clubs appear to have little to play for. It is unlikely that Ball and Jeffers would both be here if Everton were still in the relegation mire.

Keegan, as ever, was positive. "I don't see the point of falling out with managers, we have to work in tandem. They have all played ball with me, when they've pulled players out they've said 'do you want him to come down for a medical?'" But what is the point of asking an injured player to sit in a car for seven hours? If Alex Ferguson tells me Andy Cole has an ankle injury I trust that."

The absence of Cole and Campbell prevents Keegan continuing with the two partnerships he particularly wanted to use, Campbell and Martin Keown, Cole and Alan Shearer. Nevertheless, he added: "Peo-

ple say what is the point of the match? There is always a point to an England match. We have the nucleus of a good team sprinkled with stardust and we will take something from this game. A few of these youngsters are going to return as full internationals and they could make a fantastic impression."

Three of the uncapped squad members could start: Emile Heskey or Kevin Phillips will probably play alongside Alan Shearer; Ball or Michael Gray should start on the left; Carragher or Brown will be included if Keegan, as expected, opts for a 3-5-2 formation. The coach has fond memories

of the Népstadion. In June 1981 he and Trevor Brooking scored the goals that earned England an unexpected World Cup qualifying victory which helped them reach Spain the following year.

As now, it was not a game which had been approached with enthusiasm. He recalled: "I was captain, we had just lost to Switzerland, and I wished I was on holiday rather than playing football. I thought this was no way to spend the summer but we came here - and it was an unbelievable atmosphere because it was the first time Ferenc Puskas had come back (after the 1956 uprising) - and we got the win."



Ronnie O'Sullivan (right) keeps his focus on the way to overcoming Joe Perry 13-8 yesterday and reaching the World Championship quarter-finals. Eric Whitehead.

## PFA 'snubbed' by French four

BY ALAN NIXON

FOUR OF the top French players in the Premiership have been accused of snubbing the Professional Footballers' Association.

The Arsenal pair of Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira plus Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly were due to receive a special award at Sunday's PFA awards dinner in central London. The players' union had decided to honour them for their achievements last summer, when they helped France win the World Cup.

However, despite a chauffeur-driven car being sent to Hillsborough to pick up the Chelsea pair after their game at Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday, not one of the four turned up.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, picked up the award for his compatriots, and said with some embarrassment: "It's not my fault they are not here."

One leading PFA official was more outspoken, saying: "They are just big time. They have treated their fellow pros with contempt." Arsenal's French striker Nicolas Anelka was also missing on the night, and his club-mate Tony Adams had to pick up his Young Player of the Year award. Another Frenchman, Tottenham's David Ginola, was there, though, to collect his Player of the Year award.

Tottenham and the Scottish Premier League club, Motherwell, are discussing an arrange-

ment which could lead to the Lanarkshire club operating as a "nursery" for Spurs, with youngsters sent to Fir Park on extended loan deals.

Nottingham Forest have confirmed that the former Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has applied to take charge at the City Ground in succession to Ron Atkinson, who is retiring at the end of the season.

Dave Richards has been unanimously appointed chairman of the Premier League. The Sheffield Wednesday chairman had been serving in an acting role following last month's resignation of the former chairman, Sir John Quinton.

Newcastle United have been linked with a £2m move for the Dynamo Kiev defender Oleh Luzhny. Middlesbrough have also been chasing the 30-year-old Ukraine captain.

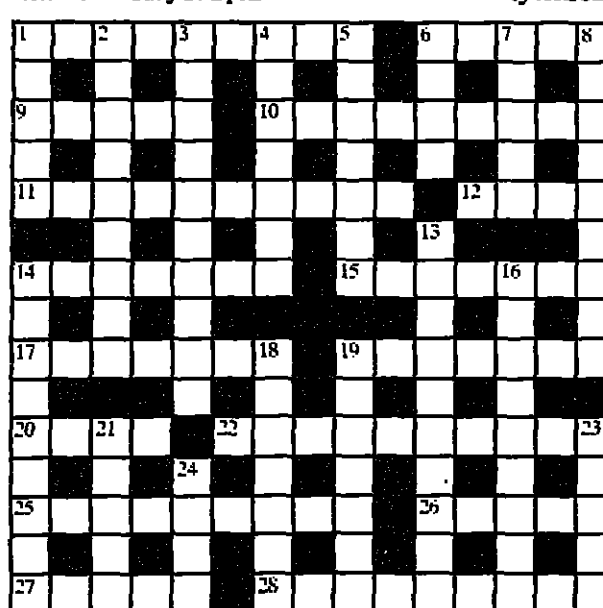
The referee Mike Dean has reported Bristol City to the Football Association after the violent scenes which marred the end of Saturday's First Division home defeat to Birmingham City. Dean and his two assistants were hit by coins thrown from the home fans' end of the ground as they left the pitch, according to the Wirral official. In another incident, the Birmingham manager Trevor Francis was involved in an altercation with a steward.

## THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3907 Tuesday 27 April

by Aelred

Monday's Solution



MINERAL BAHACHIE  
U O A X U H A  
S W O N E S U L D O A S  
T Y D O S E H  
A M O K N O V H O U S  
R U M U B E R  
D O R M A N T D R E S I E N  
E V I  
L A X H R L H F  
Y E L L O W S E A I B  
M K G P E A I B  
P R I V A T E P R O P E R T Y  
I N L E Z E S E  
C O G N A T E D R E S I E N

## ACROSS

- 1 Doubt American picture will be in Jerusalem (9)
- 6 In park I roved to find Russian ballet (5)
- 9 Times includes name-woman's name (5)
- 10 Success and what it does? Not altogether an accident (3-3-3)
- 11 Story about Bible for us is advantageous (10)
- 12 Spanish woman, one backing religion (4)
- 14 Soak and liar prepared for another court appearance (7)
- 15 An illustration from old flame - enough (7)
- 17 Fabric, first instance thereof, is hard to get (7)
- 19 Duncan, perhaps, is one mending road? (7)
- 20 Water seen in sea

## DOWN

- 1 Vehicle in science fiction which can keep you warm in winter (5)
- 2 You visits could lead to a complaint (9)
- 3 Showing lack of concern by flouting cautions? (10)
- 4 This is hard male, out-cast (7)
- 5 Female name that is

- 6 Associated with South African province (7)
- 7 Considerate daughter goes with relatives (4)
- 8 Repeat regarding cricket score (5)
- 9 Country providing venue for debate (9)
- 13 Telling off artist interrupting his exhibition around university (10)
- 14 Telescope is endlessly difficult to deal with (9)
- 16 Copy snap figure (9)
- 18 Still about to eat bread? Mad to be off it! (7)
- 19 The writer to demand one addressed? Really! (1,3,3)
- 21 Taking cap off had drink lifted (5)
- 23 Second inferior track (5)
- 24 Some exotic editors needed to be cooled down (4)

## O'Sullivan's mood back in the pink

## SNOOKER

BY GUY HODGSON  
at the Crucible, Sheffield

WITH RONNIE O'SULLIVAN you wonder what is more damaging: the troughs of depression he visits too often or the mood swings that speak of greater confusion. "A troubled talent" seemed too glib a description yesterday.

After he had won his first-round match at the Embassy World Championship O'Sullivan spoke of the depths that inclined him to give up snooker, but after beating Joe Perry 13-8 yesterday to reach the quarter-finals a blinding brightness appeared to have replaced the impenetrable dark of only a few days before.

"A lot can happen in three or four days," he said. "It's amazing. It really is. Some days you can feel down and others it just comes back and stays with you a while. No doubt it'll go sooner or later but you have to take it while you can."

"I've got most of my troubles out of the way. I had a few off the table at the start of the season but they've been put to bed now. I can look forward to three or four years trouble-free."

Which is a psychological U-turn that leaves you wondering whether he was playing games had he not pulled out of two tournaments this season, including November's UK Championship in which he was defending champion, on medical advice. All snooker players get fed up and maybe he hides it less well than his peers, or maybe he is just trying to alleviate the expectation his wonderful skill generates.

For his sake you hope for the best, as indeed O'Sullivan did

yesterday, and on the table at least there was evidence of normality, which in his case is a mixture of barely credible brilliance and errors so crass you wonder whether the same man is holding the cue.

Ahead 9-7 overnight, he had only one substantial break, 72, but nevertheless had enough long pots and kept enough of a grip on his discipline to brush aside Perry, who threatened to repeat his upset of Steve Davis in the first round when level at 6-6.

The last frame was what the third-seeded O'Sullivan should, and probably does, aim for: At 62-9 down the Londoner visited the table three times, the biggest break of which was 35, but by allaying caution and some carefully laid snookers to his more celebrated gifts he sneaked it 63-62.

"In spits and spats he looked like he had plenty there," Perry said. "He looked good when he is in full flow but the odd frame he got a bit scrappy. I don't know what it is. Maybe he got bored."

The happy-clappy O'Sullivan would have none of it in his current eagerness to be positive. "The second session was very good for me, believe it or not," he said. "Joe had a 70 and a 100 break but I managed to nick a couple, which was good for me. He could have won that session, so to come out 4-4 left me really pleased."

"I think the practice I put in before the tournament is beginning to pay off a little bit. I feel really good. It gets difficult out there but you've got to expect that: you're only human, you make mistakes."

He now meets the 1991 champion, John Parrott, whose predatory instincts and ability to prey on errors have given him a 6-2 lead in head-to-head meetings. "I know I have to tighten my game up a little bit," O'Sullivan said. "He always seems to play well against me."

Concentration is O'Sullivan's Achilles' heel and Mark Williams has admitted to finding it elusive at times in the past. Not that there was any sign of his mental wavering yesterday as he converted a 9-7 advantage from Sunday into a 13-7 victory over Nick Walker.

Breaks of 55, 45, 83, 39 and 26 finished the match in less than 80 minutes and underlined that Williams, the fifth seed and winner of three ranking events this season, is a credible contender here even though he will probably have to play two world champions to reach the final. Ken Doherty awaits him next and after that, in all likelihood, it will be the defending champion, John Higgins. "I would love to win my next match and play John in the semi-final," Williams said. "And I think I can beat him. I've got as good a chance as anyone in the tournament. I'm never going to come here in a better frame of mind."

You wonder if O'Sullivan will ever be able to say the same. Results, Digest, page 23

## KOSOVO

## THE HUMAN CATASTROPHE 4 HOURS AWAY

Exhausted refugees are still pouring into Albania, the poorest country in Europe. Christian Aid is here, helping impoverished local families to accommodate refugees in their homes.

In Macedonia and Montenegro thousands of families have been separated: brother from sister, wife from husband, parent from child. Christian Aid is here, helping in the agonisingly slow process of searching and reuniting.

The Balkan crisis is just 4 hours away, yet threatens to take Europe back half a century. Christian Aid is here. We were here at the beginning. And we'll stay until the crisis is over. Help us now.

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# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



Sean Connery is doing his bit in the run-up to the Scottish elections. But where are his fellow artists: the writers and rockers, the movers and moguls who helped create the Scotgeist? They're too busy making deals with Hollywood studios or London publishers to play politics with Holyrood or Westminster. They're staying a step ahead of the game, and they're making it pay. Pat Kane introduces a major series on the cultural life of New Scotland

It takes only a few words to sum up the relationship between arts and politics in a self-governing Scotland: culture brought about the parliament. And, now that it's here, culture is scattering to the four winds. The job, in essence, has been done. Scots voters know quite keenly why they want a polity – because thousands of creative types over the last three decades have kept telling them how distinctive their country is. Not necessarily better or worse, but at least distinctive – thus worth exerting sovereignty over. Now, just a few days before the elections and a few months before a new century, the troops of the Scottish cultural front are demobbing. Who wants to link arms, write prose poems and celebrate the new dawn? It's time to party, make deals and hustle like crazy.

Let me freeze-frame a few scenes from the current whirl, all of them in Glasgow, that will hopefully make the giddy intoxication of this moment obvious. First, the UK premiere of *Orphans*, Peter Mullan's multi-award-winning first movie, at the Atlantic Quay cinema in Glasgow last week. They were all there, the complete firmament of modern Scottish culture – the junkie novelists and the podgy stadium rockers; the local TV moguls and the sitcom matriarchs; the brand-new auteurs and the bland old chancers, all crammed into a brain-frazzling multiplex foyer and networking like it's 1999.

But this is New Scotland networking – and you have to establish that correct mix of prolier-than-thou with insane ambition. The director's big in Cannes, dealing with Hollywood – but he's also a member of the Scottish Socialist Party. You watch these astonishing performers on screen and remind yourself that, a decade ago, half of them used to plead with you to come and see their sub-Brechtian sketches on a wet Monday night.

All night, the talk is of projects and contracts, advances and collaborations – but delivered with that awright-pal-aye-keepin'-busy nonchalance which disguises the fact that they're now cosmopolitan hurrives, through and through. And even though the movie is about pathological working-class Catholics – come on, tell me a "new" Scottish story – it really feels, and looks, like some kind of lost Fellini-Cassavetes collaboration. That is, it's a real movie, a movie-movie, not just some community theatre performance captured on film.

Despite the frantic glugging of cheap champagne, everyone knows the game has been raised a notch or two tonight. The same people have swapped their megaphones for mobile phones, their agit-prop for product pitching. And you know what? They're not the slightest bit guilty about it. Most of them feel they've earned a little schmooze-time.

But this is the movies, after all – and whether in the shadow of Holyrood or of Hollywood, its bullshit always walks tall. For a richer consideration of national character, how about a meeting of five of the best Scottish writers, at a basement do in a Glasgow bookshop, for World Books Day? Surely here you'd expect a degree of forensic soul-searching, some ponderous divinations of the Scotgeist?

Nah. What exercises these writers – Andrew O'Hagan, Janice Galloway, Des Dillon, Don Paterson and Meg Henderson: a real power panel from the Scottish modern canon – is what exercises every other writer in the Western world. That is, distributors, percentages, marketing strategies, the peridy of agents, whether to fear or love the Internet, whether to recommend or discourage creative writing courses...

Each one of them writes out of a deep well of Scottish culture and tradition – but all five are on London publishers, branch offices of the big conglomerates. And selling their properties very widely, thank you; most of them have had their stories optioned by other media. Now, where is the wine?

One last scene: a meeting with John McGrath, the eminence of Scottish political theatre, at a press conference to promote the latest movie he's producing. He's as urbane and articulate as ever, with a shock of white hair flying off his head to the left. But his language becomes most focused when he's talking the language of *The Player*: "The male star's just done a romantic lead to Demi Moore... the female star's alongside Liv Tyler and Ralph Fiennes in their new movie... the US distributor's pre-sales are good, we aim to get worldwide sales at next year's Cannes..."

This is the man who founded the 7:84 theatre company in the radical Seventies, based on the proposition that seven per cent of the population owned 84 per cent of the wealth. McGrath catches me looking a little stunned. "They say all the best capitalists are ex-Communists," he quips.

I could mention many, many more instances like this. In fact, working on the new *Sunday Herald* broadsheet in Glasgow, I am one. The paper exists partly because we know that there's a market opportunity in selling new media to the Scottish bourgeoisie – and the talent is around to make it a good product. But we're also hearing stories about a "creative Scotland" – an enterprising generation of dodgers, divers, duckers and weavers, symbolic analysts in every field – which seems a million miles away from the fast-wavers and folk-warriors of the Seventies and Eighties. The song has changed from nationalism to commercialism in Scottish culture, from "what are we?" to "here we are – buy us".

Are Scots artists such hucksters now because they're secretly admitting their debt to Thatcher? From 1979 to 1997, from the first shrill tones of Thatcher to the last mumblings of Major, Scottish culture reinvented itself as a defensive moral identity. Her "values" were not our "values" – and on that moral ground,

between social democracy and neo-liberalism, a cohesive cultural tradition was built.

Writers such as James Kelman, Alasdair Gray and William MacIver stood there – as did hundreds of other actors, pop singers, TV scriptwriters, poets and celebrity presenters. These people often found themselves literally standing together, too: these were 18 years of shivering on platforms, sharing drum-kits at protest gigs, granting politicians and trade unionists their requested photo opportunities.

Whether declared or not, this was in the classic sense a cultural front: the close association of Scottish arts with anti-Tory politics gave the resistance a lot more poetry and humanity than it otherwise would have had. So when Scots voted in two separate elections for their own parliament in 1997, they were voting for something that was wretched in word, image and song – something more resonant, that is, than just another level of national administration.

But the thing about words, images and songs in a globalising, informational age – whether they're Scottish or otherwise – is that they often mutate and change; the signs come loose from their referents, the celebrity machine can anoint them at any time. Who wants to keep on grimly defending Scottish identity, when the pager just won't stop buzzing? And who wants to keep hearing about it, when everybody enjoys our local heroes when they go global?

To wit: young Scots actor-chancer becomes the biggest star in the biggest movie of all time; it takes only four years from *Trainspotting* to *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*. How the hell did that happen? And what kind of "values" – other than the kind of be-kilted cheekiness he displayed on the cover of *Vanity Fair* – does Ewan McGregor take with him into the global firmament?

Probably no other value than a relaxed, mutable Scottishness; and, for most people, creators or consumers, that's quite enough to be going on with in the new Scotland. The bards helped put the bricks in place at Holyrood by building the foundation stones for a modern, confident national identity. But now that the construction cranes are swinging, the time for introspection is over.

Once again, the artists in Scotland are ahead of the politicians, currently enmired in a grim battle of fiscal pennies and geopolitics. The creative types are now interested in Scottish routes, rather than Scottish roots. How do we take these distinctive structures of feeling into the world, its agenda; what audiences, what markets, what collaborators, what money-men do we need to make good work happen here?

If this sounds as though Scottish culture is already shooting beyond the confines of the British state, implicitly presuming that it may have a global impact, then you're hearing correctly. In that sense, independence has already been declared in this country. But, as is usual in Scotland, the imagination always anticipates the political nation.

The writer is associate editor of the *'Sunday Herald'* and one half of the group Hue and Cry

## INSIDE

The visual arts: Suzanna Beaumont on the glories and dangers of Scotland's past

Page 11

## TOMORROW

Paul Taylor on nationalism and the new wave of Scottish playwrights



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## KOSOVO AND BALKAN CRISIS

### PLEASE ACT NOW

It's a month since the conflict in Kosovo escalated and an ever growing number of refugees desperately need emergency assistance, food, shelter and clothing simply to survive.

It's a crisis of horrendous proportions and Y Care, in conjunction with church organisations, is helping to relieve the suffering through an emergency feeding and assistance programme to provide nutrition, shelter and clothing to refugees in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and other parts of FR Yugoslavia.

Please help us help these desperate people survive the coming weeks and months.

Please help by sending whatever you can today.

Thank you.

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## Media aid for Serbs

Sir: I am concerned that the press and broadcasting media are giving aid and comfort to the Serb enemy in the present war. I imagine this is not intended, but the fact that Serb propaganda reaches us so constantly via correspondents in Belgrade and elsewhere reflects, I believe, an inability on the part of the media to understand the necessary change of gear they must make in a shooting war.

It is a great strength in our country and other democracies normally to listen to all points of view in matters of contention. But in war, stricter rules must apply. Decisions have been made, whether the media like or not, to commit men to battle. Everything possible should be done to support the men at war and every means used to avoid undermining the morale of those in battle and those "who only stand and wait". The media need to descend a little from their Olympian heights of detachment.

In the 1939-45 war, Defence of the Realm Acts prevented the publication of news tending to aid and support Hitler. If such measures had not been taken, public morale would have been sapped over the six years of the conflict, as it was sapped in America in the Vietnam War. The media now should learn the lesson, as the present war and its aftermath drag on through the years - yes, years - that they have a vital part to play if we and our Nato allies are to come out of it successfully.

DENYS WHATMORE  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: My stomach churned when I saw television pictures of Tony Blair, Robin Cook and George Robertson sitting down to a sumptuous celebratory banquet as the bombs rained down on Serbia and the refugees shivered in their tents. Blair and the others were celebrating 49 years and 11 months of Nato success and one month of unpardonable folly.

Nato has got the military tactics wrong, the politics wrong and the refugee crisis wrong - with 600,000 refugees, Britain has admitted 159. This is shameful. Polly compounds folly. Give up now, Tony, before you get us into an even bigger mess. Let the UN sort it out now.

Dr ALEX B GARDINER  
Glasgow

Sir: Referring to Kosovo, Fergal Keane says: "Do you sit back and do nothing when you have the power and scope to do something?" (Comment, 24 April).

Nato has "done something" in Kosovo - it has escalated a government-terrorist conflict into a major catastrophe.

The text of the Rambouillet plan shows the level of diplomacy that took place. Rambouillet insisted on a Nato force, not an "international" one. It also insisted that Nato have free unrestricted access to the whole of Yugoslavia, not just Kosovo (article 8) including free access to airspace, roads, ports and other facilities. It would also grant Nato complete immunity from legal processes for any acts it may commit during the occupation (article 6).

When, hardly surprisingly, Yugoslavia refused to sign this agreement, our leaders decided that bombing must commence and so must the predictable humanitarian catastrophe. Clearly, this is not diplomacy, it is politics by ultimatum.

We can "do something". We can exhaust all diplomatic and peaceful means to resolve a conflict before we escalate the violence. A glance at Rambouillet gives the lie to the claim that "talking hasn't worked".

GLENN BASSETT  
Enfield, Middlesex

Sir: Milosevic's war aims are very simple: to eradicate the Albanian population of Kosovo and then to hide the evidence. Our war aims should be equally simple: to stop this happening, then bring the guilty to trial. Yes, we have made mistakes and yes there will be tragic accidents but let us not

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



City Allotments No 2: The Uplands allotments in Handsworth, Birmingham, are the largest in Europe

Andrew Fox

forget exactly what is at stake: the future of an entire population.

Air strikes are not enough. A ground force must be sent in. It should be large, heavily armed and given orders to respond to any resistance with equal force. Such action is, I believe, justified and essential if we are to save those Kosovans left in Kosovo.

We could do nothing to save the Jews in 1939. Today we can save the Albanians.

STEPHEN RUTHERFORD  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Sir: We must of course do all we can to help the refugees fleeing from Kosovo, but I do not believe a land incursion into Kosovo and/or Serbia would be either quick or successful. We need only to look at Northern Ireland to realise that racial, ethnic or religious conflicts cannot be solved by either partition or martial law.

Education is the key. Until all parties realise that they have far more in common than they have dividing them, tensions will always arise. In this instance one of the great forces for good could be the European Union. The carrot of EU membership and the resulting aid packages and trade benefits should be dangled in front of Serbia, on condition that they reverse the ethnic cleansing.

ANDREW BUCHAN  
Glasgow

Sir: Having bombed all the bridges in Serbia and Kosovo, how do Nato ground troops intend to get around? Will they swim?

CATHERINE LEWIS  
Bristol

## Carless rapture

Sir: I gave up owning a car four years ago. I would like to inform Heon Stevenson (letter, 24 April) that I am not a bachelor with a quiet settled life and few out-of-London social contacts but a middle-aged mother with four teenage children, a very busy working and social life and many out-of-London friends.

I and my children manage perfectly well. We travel on public transport, use taxis - for which I rarely pay more than £3 or £4 a ride - and I no longer have the stress of traffic jams and parking in London. When I go out I can drink without worrying, and I do not have to ensure that I have change for parking meters every time I leave the house.

When I go to the supermarket I get a taxi home for little more than the cost of the car park, the taxi driver loads my shopping into the cab, unloads it and delivers it to my front door, and I am home in less time than it used to take me to collect my car from the multi-storey car park.

I have discovered public transport routes that I didn't know existed. I have found that most shops will deliver large items for nothing or for a nominal fee.

If I visit friends out of London who are inaccessible by public transport, I hire a car at a cost of £30 for a day or £80 for a weekend. Getting rid of my car has saved me an enormous amount of hassle, stress and money. I wish I could

persuade more car owners in London to do the same.

BRIDGET SHIELD  
London SE18

## A 'crank' writes

Sir: The tone of Jane Bussman's article, "Can you feel the heat?" (22 April) would suggest that she, in a 15th-century setting, would recommend burning at the stake for anyone who had the feebleness of mind to believe in the concept of electricity - something beneficial which can't be seen, touched or easily explained to one who finds the idea unlikely.

Many so-called "New Age" techniques and therapies are indeed centuries old, feng shui being a classic example. Sure, some marketing people have a nasty habit of achieving product sales on the back of emotional angst. This is an unfortunate reality which needs to be balanced against the many people who derive enormous benefit from "alternative" therapies, strategies and beliefs.

It is also unfortunate that the author casts ridicule on those who

wish to investigate things that she chooses not to begin to understand. Perhaps the article was commissioned as a fun piece which would generate an amusing reaction from "New Age cranks" - easy to write, with some "back of an envelope" research and a pinch of prejudice thrown in.

However, was the author wise both to castigate her gender and to give credence to a Class A drug in under 600 words?

RICK MARTIN  
Newcastle upon Tyne

## No contest at polls

Sir: While all of the interest has been focused on who everybody is going to vote for in the Assembly elections, a vital issue of the local elections in Wales has been ignored.

In many unitary authorities in Wales, councillors have already been elected unopposed. This means that some people will have no voice on the local government elections. They won't be able to say whether they want more spent on schools or less spent on roads. They won't be able to praise or

condemn their local councillor's record. They won't be able to do this because unopposed councillors don't have to face an election.

Last year the Welsh office considered the large number of unopposed wards in Wales at election time. They ignored electoral methods of dealing with the problems such as proportional representation. Instead they concluded that all political parties would have to try harder to contest more wards. A year later, a large number of people still don't have a vote in the local elections. Isn't it time to reconsider another electoral system that ends unopposed wards and brings more accountability to local government?

RUSSELL DEACON  
Senior Lecturer  
UWIC Business School  
Cardiff

## Co-op fit for battle

Sir: It is interesting to know that the American and South African financiers seeking to "buy" the Co-op (report, 26 April) think that Co-op members are worth only £2,000 each.

Members of the Co-operative Movement are not cheap cans of beans to be bought and sold by City slickers. The Co-ops constitute a social and economic movement clustered around distinct principles which it has recently been reviving. This largely explains why the last ill-fated bid mounted by Andrew Regan, Hambros Bank and their collaborators inside the movement left them all flat on their faces. They underestimated the Co-op's determination to fight for its survival.

That threat also helped to rally Co-op members to a degree not seen for generations. As a consequence, the Co-op is now better prepared to repel carpetbaggers and many members up and down the country would relish the fight.

NIGEL TODD  
Newcastle upon Tyne

their French neighbours are receptive, friendly and civilised. If Sue Arnold prefers Italian food, Indian mythology and Irish friends that is fine, but she need not indulge in French-bashing.

A J VLITOS  
Pellegrue, France

Sir: How can anyone say that the Bigots sitting in the unelected House of Lords are in touch with the electorate (letter, 24 April)? An independent poll showed that 66 per cent of the British public supported an equal age of consent. If we have learnt anything at all from the events of the last few months it is that prejudice must not be tolerated.

GARY WILLIAMS  
Poole, Dorset

## IN BRIEF

defence force, as the full text of the amendment makes clear: "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

BERNARD A FAY  
Marbella, Spain

Sir: As an American living in England, and for several weeks each year in France, I assure Sue Arnold (Comment, 24 April) that the French do talk to me often and at length. In fact, they talk to me more than I have ever experienced from either British or American neighbours. The 35,000 English-speaking expatriates living in South-western France find that

Sir: William Shakespeare was recently voted the outstanding Briton of the millennium by BBC radio listeners and the film *Shakespeare in Love* has attracted huge audiences. Each country needs to recognise its greatest citizens as role models, but it seems that in this country our greatest men and women are officially ignored. It is time to honour Shakespeare by making his birthday, 23 April, a national holiday for the United Kingdom, or at least an English public holiday.

JOHN J WILD  
Middlelebury, Lancashire

Sir: Steve Devereux (letter, 23 April) omits the first part of the Second Amendment to the US constitution. The right to keep and bear arms clearly refers to the people as members of a



MILES KINGTON

Few people now remember the great Ring Lardner Sr. Does anyone at all remember Junior?

decided that the best way to spend his money was not in excess but in small, if expensive, whims. One of

these consisted in going out after midnight with a bag of golf clubs and a bag of golf balls and hitting full-blooded golf shots down the middle of a dark and deserted Sixth Avenue. Occasionally the rich golfer would hear the far-off tinkle of breaking glass as his ball strayed off course to hit a window, and he would know that he had to iron out his slice again...

Well, that was *Subways Are For Sleeping*. On a more literary level it was also the time of the emerging Beat poets, so I sometimes hung around Greenwich Village looking for Jack Kerouac or Allen Ginsberg or Gregory Corso. I preferred the writings of Corso, because I thought they were not only funnier but more juvenile, and I still have somewhere a copy of his *The Happy Birthday of Death*, which I

bought that year. I never did see any of them in the flesh, but I did see *Pull My Daisy*, the short Beat Generation film they had just made together, which was showing in the Bleecker Street cinema in the Village, and I can safely say that it was the worst film I ever saw in my life.

Actually, a book which had a far bigger impact on me than all the Beat stuff was *Generation of Vipers* by Philip Wylie, an iconoclastic writer who thought we kids should think for ourselves and not take the old baloney handed down by the grown-ups; and although I can't remember anything he said, I can clearly remember the cold-water-in-the-face effect of his hectoring.

And I still clearly recall the book I bought to take with me on the ship home (yes, you still had scheduled transatlantic crossings then). The

## Access to justice

Sir: The Access to Justice Bill is now being scrutinised by a Commons standing committee. MPs have a brief opportunity to improve this highly flawed measure. The opportunity must not be wasted. As currently drafted, the Bill will remove legal aid assistance from thousands of our most vulnerable people and widen the gap between the haves and have-nots.

Where is this Government's commitment to equality? Where is its commitment to end social exclusion? A new clause to guarantee non-discrimination and an "equal footing" for all before the law has already been dismissed as a "gimmick" by the Lord Chancellor. The Government has also flouted its own guidelines of November 1998 which require all measures to be screened for their potential to discriminate, both directly and indirectly. The Bill is in its later stages in Parliament, yet no assessment of its equal-treatment impact has appeared.

The Lord Chancellor has given his Bill a bold and unambiguous name. Only if he accepts a number of important amendments in the coming weeks will the substance of the Bill match the title.

MICHAEL MATTHEWS  
President  
The Law Society  
London WC2

## Care in crisis

Sir: Short termism - getting the highest amount of care for the smallest amount of money - will mean a shortage of care facilities in the future ("Care homes lose battle to survive in funding crisis", 21 April).

As homes are forced out of business the elderly have to be looked after somewhere, by someone. The public sector has demonstrated that it cannot provide care at the fees that it pays the independent sector. Typically, local authority residential homes cost about £100 per week more than the private sector.

Like farmers, we have complained for years that we are being inadequately compensated for our efforts and, like farmers, we have a visible capital asset which means that no one believes us.

Our fee income has fallen significantly below the rate of inflation for nine years in a row. Both what we earn and what we spend it on are determined by statutory bodies. Stifling over-regulation and disappearing margins are leading many operators to consider giving up. If the Government cannot or will not allow local authority funds for the reasonable cost of independent sector care, then statutory provision will have to be made.

ANDREW MAKIN  
Yorkshire Branch Secretary  
Registered Nursing Home  
Association  
Keighley, West Yorkshire

Sir: If there has been a survey into the extent of age discrimination in the NHS (letter, 21 April), perhaps there should also be a survey into what old people expect. As a 75-year-old, I expect priority to be given to those younger than myself. I hope that those with their lives ahead of them and those with parental and occupational responsibilities will always have their needs preferred.

HUMPHREY KAY  
Peasey, Wiltshire

## As she is spoke

Sir: It is impossible to set standards of pronunciation (letters, 24, 26 April). Languages are changing all the time, mainly as a result of natural human laziness when speaking them. Look at how Latin has "deteriorated" into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

JULIEN EVANS  
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Whatever happens, do not let the BBC be browbeaten into stopping Penny Tanter from saying "particularly". It's the best bit of the weather forecast.

DAVID BUTLAND  
Bradford, West Yorkshire

## 'Generation of Vipers' and other forgotten classics

AT THE Bath Book Fair on Saturday I was struck by the plethora of books that you can't imagine anyone ever reading again. I dipped into a collection of letters by W H Hudson and found him saying that he had just been forced to read a book by Mrs Humphrey Ward and, although it was not as bad as Robert Elsmere, he never again wanted to read anything by her (I did once read the very same Robert Elsmere, a novel about a clergyman losing his faith, because I liked the binding, and Hudson is right - it was terrible. I imagine that all novels about clergymen having crises of doubt are awful, but this was really hard work).

As I put the W H Hudson back, wondering whether anyone would ever again read him, let alone Mrs Humphrey Ward (was she the last

female writer doomed to be known by her husband's name?), I found my mind wandering back to the books I was devouring in New York in the late Fifties and wondering if anyone else had read any of them since then. The summer of 1959 was the first bit of my life I had spent unprotected - I had just left school and had nine months to wait to go to university, so I was packed off to stay with an aunt in the Bahamas, where I made my way to New York, got a job and more or less looked after myself.

One of the publishing successes of the season was a book about the underside of New York called *Subways Are For Sleeping*, which I bought in order to acquaint myself with the great city of which I was a resident, if only temporarily at the YMCA in West 23rd St. In fact, it

wasn't really about the rough side of New York at all. It was about a dozen or so eccentrics living in Manhattan whom the author had encountered and who seemed worth writing about. There was one man, for example, who always lived in other people's houses. House-sitting is not unusual these days, but back then it must have been very odd to find a man who spent his whole life living in and looking after places when the owners had gone on holiday.

There was also a tramp who sat all day down on the Battery watching the boats come and go and became such an expert on the currents and tides that he became employed full-time by the New York Harbour Authority.

But the man I liked the sound of best was the millionaire who de-

clined that the best way to spend his money was not in excess but in small, if expensive, whims. One of

these consisted in going out after midnight with a bag of golf clubs and a bag of golf balls and hitting full-blooded golf shots down the middle of a dark and deserted Sixth Avenue. Occasionally the rich golfer would hear the far-off tinkle of breaking glass as his ball strayed off course to hit a window, and he would know that he had to iron out his slice again...

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*Ecstasy of Owen Muir*, by Ring Lardner Jr. Few people now remember the great Ring Lardner Sr. Does anyone at all remember Junior? Well, in 1959 he had just written this satirical novel about Catholicism, in which the rich Catholic hero gets married five times, each time getting rid of the wife in ways the Catholic hierarchy accepts as valid without actually calling them divorce. It was funny and clever, and I have never met anyone who has ever heard of it. Nor have I met anyone who has read a Phil Wylie book or *Subways Are For Sleeping* or Robert Elsmere, or seen *Pull My Daisy*...

Coming soon: your voting forms for the Ten Top Forgotten Books of the Century; the book getting the least votes wins...



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Britain's inadequate response to the Balkan refugee crisis

THE ARRIVAL of 161 Kosovar refugees at Leeds airport is a welcome start. But it is still a very long way from the Government's promise of taking in 10,000 refugees from the Balkan conflict. This airlift from Macedonia must be swiftly followed by others; whereas Germany has already taken nearly 10,000 refugees, Britain's efforts so far have been grossly inadequate.

Germany's speed in taking in refugees is not just a response to its misdeeds in the Second World War. The Germans recognise that the Kosovar people have suffered murder, rape, arson and exile, and that 600,000 of them are still living in appalling conditions in overcrowded camps. Britain and France have been slow to take in Kosovars, in part because of specious arguments that sheltering refugees furthers the desire of the Yugoslav regime to expel Kosovo's Albanian-speaking majority.

Giving refuge to the most vulnerable of the Kosovars is the right thing to do. By removing 100,000 people from the immediate vicinity of the conflict, the international community eases the pressure on poor countries with over-stretched resources. Furthermore, the relations between Slavs and Albanians in Montenegro and, particularly, Macedonia are already difficult. It would be disastrous to both Nato's tactics and its aims if these countries collapsed under the human tidal wave that has hit their shores. And with a ground war becoming increasingly likely, people must be removed from the borders of Kosovo where they run a risk of being caught up in the conflict.

Many of the Kosovars who will come to the UK will be desperate to return to the mountains and valleys of their own country. They will want to return not just from sentiment but also to resume possession of their farmland.

However, there is no need to deny that some of those who come to this country will never leave. Some will have nothing to return to in Kosovo: their families will have been killed; their livelihoods will have been destroyed.

The Kosovars who come here will form connections in Britain. Men and women will fall in love. Kosovars educated here will become integrated into the local population. Britain is already a multi-ethnic and, in the main, tolerant society. There is every reason to believe that a European community, albeit a Muslim one, should fit in easily in this country.

British people have shown, through their generous donations to this newspaper and other appeals for charity, that they are keen to help the refugees. For those who do want to return - and they may well be the majority - the best solution is to retake Kosovo as quickly as possible, whatever it takes. Although Britain has not caused the crisis, it has a moral responsibility to help solve it. There is no reason why we should not take twice 10,000.



## Access to justice for those who need it

A CIVILISED society governed by the rule of law is impossible without law being available to all. That is why the current spat between Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, and the Law Society, the solicitors' governing body, is more than an amusing side-show. The immediate cause of the row is a set of advertisements in national newspapers. The Law Society suggests that the Access to Justice Bill will restrict legal aid for victims of negligent employers, domestic violence, housing disrepair and police discrimination. The Lord Chancellor is so infuriated that he has asked the Law Society to remove the advertisements. That is going too far. The Law Society should be allowed to express its opinion. But he is right to press ahead with his wider campaign to reform legal aid. The Bill attempts to tackle the increase

in the cost of legal aid by differentiating between help for criminal and civil cases. People accused of a crime will still be entitled to legal aid after means tests. This will not be true of litigants in civil cases unless they are involved in either a family law case or a personal injury case.

Vexatious litigants should not expect taxpayers to fund their obsession. By encouraging the development of "no win, no fee" arrangements for civil matters, the Government forces solicitors to take a hard look at a case before taking it on and using up the precious time of the courts.

If the Bill is enacted, it will be operating in an altered legal environment. As of this week the recommendations of the Woolf Report will be introducing the biggest changes to the civil legal system in a generation. Through fines and the removal of legal obscurities, the new procedures encourage litigants and solicitors to settle cases as speedily as possible. The less time and money that is wasted on trivial cases, the more money will be available for ensuring that everyone who needs access to justice gets it.

## Are we being served?

"AND THE Belgians are playing the joker!" It's a long time since these words were heard on television, during the final edition of *It's a Knockout*, in 1982. That Channel 5 is exhuming this old format, complete with its presenter Stuart Hall, is an unlikely event in itself, marking the moment when British TV went terminal. But it also comes at a time when the BBC is so short of ideas for sitcoms that it is bringing Victor Meldrew out of retirement for a new series. Something has clearly gone wrong with the creative dynamo of those in charge when all the broadcasters' schedules are stuffed with shows that are either Seventies repeats, such as *Are You Being Served?*, Seventies revivals such as *heaven help us, Jim Davidson's Generation Game*, or Seventies survivors such as *Emmerdale* and *Last of the Summer Wine*. It may be too early to report the strange death of British TV, but it seems to have one foot in the grave.

# The amazing thing is that there is not more violence on our streets

YESTERDAY I typed "nail bomb" into the box in the search engine, and waited a while for the invisible *idiot* search to scan a trillion Internet files. Ten seconds later I had captured two dozen pages of references to nail bombs from all over the world, and had been plunged, eyes first, into what many would regard as a modern nightmare.

The first site belonged to a heavy metal band, presumably American, called Nail Bomb. You may not recall that their two extant albums are called *Point Blank* and *Proud to Commit Commercial Suicide*. On another music site, Nail Bomb's wares were offered for sale, along with such feelgood items as *Napalm Death's Fear, Empress's Despair, Cradle of Filth's Sodomizing The Virgin Vamps*, and *Skeleton of God's Urine Garden*. So this is what young Ewan Blair and Prince William are listening to...

The next series of sites belonged to news operations and campaign groups, and simply detailed attacks with nail bombs across the globe. There were fatal nail-bomb attacks in Paris in 1995, that were then linked to the conflict in the French colony of Algeria. It was a nail bomb that killed two people at the start of the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. Also in the US, nail bombs have been used against abortion clinics.

Over here, nine years ago, a pro-hunting activist planted one under his own car to try to discredit hunt saboteurs - and got a short prison sentence for his folly. Less well known has been the recent series of nail-bomb

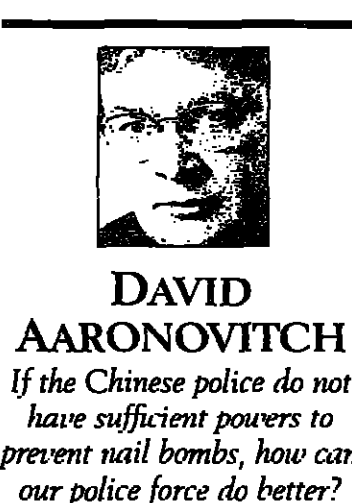
explosions in squares and market-places in China, planted, it is conjectured, by opponents of the government. In fact, nail bombs are going off all over the place.

As it happens, as from this morning I also know how to make one of these simple and cheap devices. Following a string of connections (or "threads") from my original enquiry, I eventually fetched up at a site (which I will not name, lest this article falls into the hands of a seriously unimaginative would-be terrorist) which explained in patient detail how the same bombs as those used in Brixton and Brick Lane may be assembled and primed. The circuitry is laid out in easy-to-follow diagrams, and little dos and don'ts are helpfully provided, and all with a deprecatory humour worthy of Alan Titchmarsh.

The site's guardian, however, is grumpier than our Alan when approached directly. He (surely he must be a he) welcomes e-mails that will contribute positively to the vast amount of useful information he has available. But he is clearly fed up with all the boasting.

"I do not care what you did with this knowledge," he says wearily. "In fact, if you are writing to tell me what you did to an enemy, or your high school, I think you are an idiot. Why? Because you just committed an illegal act and you are bragging about it." And he adds a health warning: "Most of these text files can kill YOU. If you try these items, and kill yourself? Good. Darwinism is not a bullshit concept."

I imagine this chap to be a Dennis Hopper lookalike: a tired, grizzled old



DAVID AARONOVITCH

If the Chinese police do not have sufficient powers to prevent nail bombs, how can our police force do better?

Sixties anarchist in a Montana cabin, who wants his knowledge of bombs to be put to socially positive use. He has no time for adolescent wannabe terrorists with silly names. So he would not be impressed with the so-called White Wolves, one of a collection of minuscule (and quite possibly unmembered) organisations claiming responsibility for the London explosions. Their risible, stencilled statement threatening all Jews and non-whites hardly needed the "Hail Britannia" at the end to remind us how pathetic and unserious these people are.

And yet we feel very vulnerable, don't we? Sitting in the window of a cafe in North London yesterday, I suddenly wondered who was next. The claim from a Jewish community spokesman that "the community is on the alert" made me wonder whether

plain-clothes battalions of the Israeli army had been drafted into Golders Green for the duration. It was a comforting thought. But not for the columnist who yesterday thundered that these bombings were a disgrace, that one was too many and that two looked suspiciously like carelessness. "If the police cannot stop them, and stop them now," he fulminated, "just why exactly do we have a Metropolitan police force?"

And here we should begin to take hold of ourselves. If the Chinese police do not have sufficient powers to prevent such attacks, how on earth can we demand of our police force that they do better? We live in a free and open society. People are allowed to wander the streets with sports bags, drive our streets with trunks full of God knows what, sit in their attics experimenting with chemicals, and go to funny little meetings with other strange people.

There are more than 58 million of us in this country. As your night train sweeps through town and countryside, it passes thousands of lighted windows. There are mile after mile of kitchens and lounges and garages, and in all of them live or potter our fellow citizens, with their various loves, contents, ambitions and hatreds. Not only will some of them be deranged, but many will also be seekers after some sort of glory. After all, what impulse is it that demands that you impersonate a paedophile simply so that you can appear on the *Kitby* show? Many of us are desperate to be noticed. Few of us have newspaper columns to help us do it.

So, item one: information on how to make bombs, very easily available. Item two: millions of people in the country, lots of them mad.

Item three: a great and growing need for celebrity, however it is earned. And, item four: an open society in which it is relatively easy to pass unhindered by the authorities.

Put like this, what is truly extraordinary is the fact that so few bombs explode on our streets, in our schools or outside our public buildings. This is no consolation for those injured in such attacks, and for the relatives of those who will doubtless be killed if the bombers are not found. But the truth is probably that these blasts have been perpetrated by the same gang of tattooed loonies who have always been there. There is no groundswell of support for the BNP, no far-right mass rallies. I detect no lingering support for the bombers.

In other words, I don't believe that these bombs tell us anything we did not already know. Except, perhaps, about the strangely peripatetic life of an unattended sports bag in a city street. This is not a plea for everyone to relax his or her vigilance; there is a bad, sad bastard out there who needs to be caught. But I really don't think the explosions should cause another bout of hand-wringing, pessimism and despair about our society.

For all our problems, for all that one of our most popular broadcasters was brutally killed yesterday, this remains a tolerant and peaceful country. Two explosions do not make a dystopia.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The more popular she was, the more ordinary she was with us."  
Jennie Bond, BBC presenter, reacting to the death of her colleague Jill Dando

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Peace is indivisible."  
Mazim Litvinov, Soviet diplomat



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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
International comment on the celebration of Nato's 50th anniversary

THE EVOLUTION of the alliance's strategy reflects the change of United States security strategy. Nato, which used to be Washington's main tool to confront the Soviet Union during the Cold War era, was chosen as a new weapon by the United States to dominate Europe and even the world. The United States, the only superpower, vowed to lead the world

in the next century, attempting to impose American values and the American political system on others. The analysts also believe that the United States' strategy to build a mono-polar world order goes against the historical trend of the world's multi-polarization and is certain to fail. *China Daily*

NATO MUST find a way to end the war in Yugoslavia successfully. Europe is ending the

century much as it began, with a war sparked in the Balkans. Already, much of Kosovo has been ethnically cleansed, and there are real fears that the war could spread even further. As the Nato leaders convened for their three-day party, we hope they kept the champagne corked and avoided self-congratulation. As they dither, their new mission is already being defined in blood in the Balkans. *The Corning Leader, US*

THE ALLIANCE concluded what should have been a triumphal anniversary celebration by declaring that it was united on the subject of a blockade, when it was clearly nothing of the sort. Nato announced it would be prepared to take action in support of democracy outside its own region. It would be a disaster if its search for a post-Cold War role became a return to conflict with its former Cold War enemy. *The Age, Australia*

NATO IS a step away from having to plan its own wake. Yugoslavia is winning the war in Kosovo thanks to Nato's incompetence and irresolution. If Nato cannot defeat Yugoslavia - and if Slobodan Milosevic does not lose, he wins - why have the alliance at all? Nato has done much good, and was an essential ingredient in the defeat of communism, but nostalgia is no reason to keep decrepitude alive. *Boston Herald, US*



## PANDORA

EWAN MCGREGOR (pictured), topliner of the big summer *Star Wars* prequel, doesn't go to Knuckle Junction. "I can talk a good fight but I'd run a mile if one ever happened," McGregor says. "I had a fight once but I just got punched to the floor and that was it." The refreshingly unsterotypical Scot may have to make some attitude adjustments when the much-hyped movie eventually hits our cinemas. "Suddenly all these people are coming up to me with posters to sign," the pacific thespian says. "May the Force be with you." People have actually said that to me... I think that's quite batty."

SMILEY FACES were hoping that the success of the *Locke* negotiations would foreshadow a similar deal to bring PC Yvonne Fletcher's killers to justice. Don't hold your breath. Pandora sees liability issues and a ballistics report roadblocking the suspected shooter's surrender.

WINNING TEAM. Now that first-division champions Sunderland have booked their premiership berth for next season, is the manager Peter Reid thinking differently to avoid the Yo-Yo syndrome that has pushed Nottingham Forest to the drop? Reid dummied parliamentary lobby journalists when he arrived for their morning briefing this week with Alastair Campbell (wheels down from Washington DC) and Fraser Kemp (Lab. Houghton and Washington East). The simian manager looked and learnt as Campbell and the hacks tackled the Kosovo war. Next stop for the Sunderland boss was Downing Street. Perhaps this visit down south will inspire the former England star to add more strength and depth to his squad - the premiership is a league of its own.

TODAY'S SLANG. Guide is to Asian youth phrases. Chirping: flirting with the aim of pulling and subsequently plugging. Pudi (among Muslim kids) or fudhi (to their Hindu counterparts): beautiful girls. Benchod: insult implying the other party is incestuous. Is it (pronounced izzi) used as an

acknowledgement of a definitive statement, equivalent to "Oh really" - cf innit, all-purpose intensifier (eg "This place is the dogs, innit"). Having a session: smoking cannabis. Munch: takeaway food. Chat to you later: speak to you soon.

ELLEN BARKIN stars in the appropriately titled *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, a scathing comedy about American beauty pageants - and Pandora's spies say Barkin, one of the smartest players in La-La land, steals the film. Alas, someone's stolen her boyfriend, Ron Perlman, the billionaire chairman of Revlon, was spotted hooking up with a well-upholstered cable TV star. The man must have rocks in his head.

TOM JONES was asked by connections of a 104-year-old Watford fan to come and sing at her birthday party. The 60-year-old singer, who looked as though he'd put on a pound or two at Momo's Arabesque bash earlier this month, declined the gig on health grounds. Pandora wishes the old roue well. FYI (For Your Information): Last time we looked, Uncle Tom's taste in femmes ran to rather younger laydeez.

A DELICIOUS moment during Donald Macintyre's Peter Mandelson documentary earlier this week. Mandy, it revealed, loves Andy... Andy Williams, the singer? Pandaphiles will want to buy the book *Mandelson, the Biography*, HarperCollins on this one.

LAST WORD on Hugh Hefner's 73rd birthday party at his Holmby Hills hideaway. Hefner complained he felt faint and bumpy people hit the panic button. A Hefner mouth-piece now dismisses the incident as a "moment" and blames it on the Playboy boss drinking on an empty stomach. She also says that Hef is seeing three women - conveniently named Mandy, Sandy and Brandy. A case of too much on his plate but not enough in his belly?

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## My place in Welsh history - for £150



TOM DAVIES

*It is rather wonderful being the leader of a great political party - and I recommend it to all*

AND SO I have finally done it. After years of dreaming about it and even more years writing about it as a journalist, I have finally formed my own party, the Celtic Alliance, and will be presenting myself and its radical new policies for promoting Welsh arts and sport before the great Welsh electorate in the forthcoming Assembly election.

It was all surprisingly easy, really. I rang up a nice man called Ron in Companies House about a month ago and registered my party for a mere £150. Ron wanted to know if I had a logo, so I found a nice Celtic cross floating around the Internet and gave him that.

It is really rather wonderful being a leader of a great political party, and I recommend it to all. My details have been registered on some web-site, and newspapers such as *The Scotsman* ring and ask me how many candidates I'm fielding in Scotland. The BBC political unit wanted to know how many candidates I'm fielding in Europe.

Only this morning Bristol University wrote to me wanting a copy of my election brochure, which they want to house in their collection of

election addresses, which "dates back to the 1890s and has proved to be of great use to researchers and members of the public". Ah so, a place in political history already. And all for £150.

Then I had to put in my nomination papers, all signed by my wife, the Celtic Alliance secretary, complete with a £500 deposit which I am extremely keen to get back. Again

they were all very nice to me in County Hall, but you could see they were trying hard not to laugh when they saw my eyebrows disappear into my hairline on being told that there were no fewer than 40,000 properties in my constituency.

Clearly I then had to order some 40,000 brochures from my next-door neighbour, who just happens to be a printer, and they are now piled up in 20 boxes in my hallway. They cost me about £1,400, but there is only the slimmest chance of them all getting delivered.

Every party needs a rosette, so another neighbour, the journalist and quilter Judy Stephens, ran me up a rosette the size of a large pizza. Complete with my Celtic cross logo. The trouble is, when I've got it on and am out on my bike, I'm not sure if I'm canvassing or about to take off on a new crusade to win back the Holy Land from the infidel.

The bicycle is crucial to my media image of the little man fighting the big system. We at the Celtic Alliance are now frantically trying to set up a photograph of me on my bicycle looking up at Alun Michael's hi-tech battle bus.

The battle is not an easy one since my parliamentary constituency of Cardiff South and Penarth - which is also Alun Michael's constituency - is as strange as they come, stretching from the chintzy, well-heeled seaside town of Penarth through the wilder suburbs of Grangetown and Tiger Bay and the grim, working-class terraces of Splott, to the sprawling estates of Llanrumney and Trowbridge.

In some parts the residents are clearly worried about Molotov cocktails, since it is all but impossible to get anything through the letter-boxes. I put one of my brochures into the hands of a four-year-old and told him to give it to his mother. This mite, who barely reached up to my knee, simply glared at me and told me to go and have sexual relations with myself. Or words to that effect.

There is a high level of apathy in these elections, but I am hoping the Celtic Alliance will break through all this with its bold and radical policies for reviving the artistic and sporting heart of Wales.

All Welsh artists have now been silenced, but I'm telling them that the Celtic Alliance wants to set up

a national publishing house to get our writers up and running again, a fully funded film centre so that we can start producing feature films, and a national theatre so we can get our playwrights working and our stars to come home. Only by means of a fully revived artistic life will we ever be able to form a national identity, I say.

The Celtic Alliance also has plans for the state to invest in Wales's three league soccer teams until they reach the Premiership. All this would be much more important to our psychological well-being, I say into my megaphone, than our Welsh National Opera receiving £7m a year in arts subsidy so that its performers may sing in Italian or Czech to the chosen few.

How all this will play in the mean streets of Tiger Bay is anyone's guess. The mind of Cardiff South and Penarth is extremely difficult to read, but I am going to give it all a good punt and am extremely hopeful that the man in County Hall will at least give me my £500 deposit back. But I'll probably get a good book out of it in the end. I will call it *Gangrene Was My Valley*.

## We should not rule out a peaceful solution in Kosovo



ANATOL LIEVEN

*We need to reach a compromise - not with Milosevic but with the Serbian nation*

IF NATO leaders seriously believe that the air campaign to date has impressed the rest of the world, then they are deceiving themselves. The price of maintaining alliance unity over Kosovo has been to make the waging of effective war impossible. Not only is a ground offensive blocked by several member states and powerful forces in the US, but a mixture of the terrain and Nato governments' fear of casualties among their pilots has so far reduced the bombing campaign against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo itself to a joke. This humiliating failure is undoing many of the positive effects of the 1991 victory in the Gulf on our potential enemies around the world.

We are therefore being pushed inexorably in the direction of a ground offensive - probably not by the whole of Nato, but a "coalition of the willing" involving the US and UK. Despite all its risks, a ground war would still be better than an air campaign lasting months and not just because of the effects on Serbia - strange though it may be to mention these under the circumstances.

Months of bombing would leave an economically ruined, embittered Serbia as a source of anti-Western terrorism and destabilisation. For all foreseeable time Serbia would be a "rogue state". The West may now be promising some kind of Marshall plan for the Balkans, but it is highly unlikely that any conceivable post-war Serbian government would qualify, given the furious anti-Western feelings it will represent.

However, the dangers of a ground war are by now well-known. Attacking from Albania involves formidable logistical obstacles. An offensive via Macedonia or Montenegro looks politically impossible at present. Attacking from the north (assuming that Hungary and/or Bosnia were to agree) is militarily

much simpler, but would involve the occupation of the whole of Serbia, with everything that would mean for terrorism, partisan warfare and political quagmire.

Before moving towards a ground war, we therefore need to make a serious attempt to reach a compromise - not with Milosevic, who is by now largely irrelevant to the real long-term issue, but with the Serbian nation. It is with this nation that we are now at war, and it is with this nation that we shall still be dealing when this war is over.

The mission of Strobe Talbott, the US Deputy Secretary of State, to Moscow this week gives us the chance to use Russia to achieve such a compromise - and this would also do something to restore our dangerously shattered relations with Moscow. However, for this to work, we cannot simply follow US policy so far, which has essentially been one of telling Russia to tell Belgrade to surrender. If we are going to get the Serbs to agree to a settlement without defeating them on the ground or bombing them into starvation, then

any settlement will obviously have to be a negotiated one.

To achieve such a settlement first of all means facing facts. The most important of these is that Albanians and Serbs cannot now live together in a common state - indeed, this was already apparent 10 years ago. A large number of Albanians cannot possibly be asked to live again under the threat of Serbian military terror; but, equally, a withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from the whole of Kosovo and their replacement with Nato troops would sooner or later lead inevitably to the formal separation of the whole of Kosovo and the flight of its Serbian minority. Nato will not stay there indefinitely to protect them.

To achieve such a result, in an area that Serbs regard as of critical historical and emotional importance, will require their complete military defeat. To maintain such a settlement against the threat of a Serbian *renouveau* will require a permanent Nato commitment in the region. It would probably also involve the heavy arming of Albania by Nato - a grotesque proposition, considering Albania's record as a failing state.

The only way to get out of this hole is to partition Kosovo. This could begin with the creation of "safe havens" for the Kosovar Albanians covering some two-thirds of the existing territory of Kosovo and akin to those established for the Kurds of northern Iraq in 1991. Yugoslav forces would withdraw behind a line patrolled by UN forces with a Nato component and guaranteed by the UN (including Russia) as well as Nato. This would allow most (though by no means all) of the refugees and those displaced within Kosovo to return home and would secure their safety. Nato would, however, have to give a formal



Viktor Chernomyrdin greets President Milosevic

assurance to Yugoslavia that, unless Yugoslav forces crossed that line, Nato air attacks would resume.

This solution would obviously mean the Serbs giving up most of Kosovo. Its attraction for them, however, would be that it would involve de facto partition. This would leave them in control both of the remaining areas of Serbian population and of the emotionally most significant places: the battle field of Kosovo Polje itself and the Serbian monasteries.

This would be achieved by leaving in Serbian hands both a large swathe of territory in the north and a small, separate bit in the west adjacent to Montenegro and containing Pec (the site of the old Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate) and the monastery of Decane. This division would give the Serbs a great deal more than their present share of the Kosovar population would justify, but it would be roughly in line with their historical position in recent centuries, before the higher Albanian birthrate radically changed the local balance.

Such a solution would obviously be unacceptable to the Albanians. In particular, leaving Kosovo Polje in Serbian hands means in effect doing the same for the capital, Pristina, of which it is now a southern suburb. However, it should be possible to compensate the Kosovar Albanians for this loss. As it is, a massive programme of aid will be needed to rebuild Albanian homes destroyed by the Serbs. There is no reason why this should not be extended to the construction of a new regional capital at Prizren in the south-east - especially since this was in fact the capital of Kosovo under the Ottoman Empire.

A solution involving safe havens and de facto partition obviously involves Nato giving up some of its existing principles for a settlement, but it could still just about be presented as a Nato victory; but are we prepared to fight for a complete victory and live with the consequences?

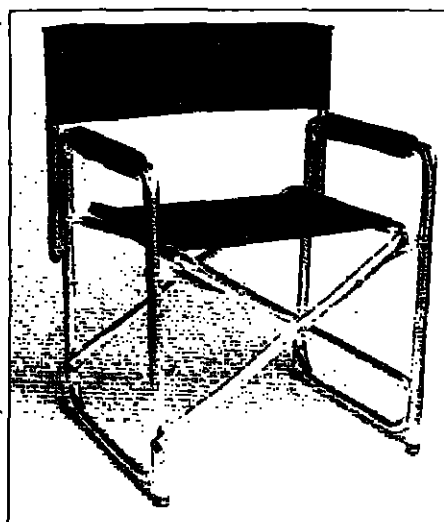
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## Key components of a happy society



## PODIUM

ANNE WEYMAN  
From a speech by the  
chief executive of the  
Family Planning  
Association to its  
annual conference

SEXUAL HEALTH tends to be seen as a private or lifestyle issue, and primarily the concern of specialist health services. Yet it can be argued that the great innovations in sexual health, including universal access to contraception, the establishment of specialist services to treat sexually transmitted infections and the 1967 Abortion Act, have done more than any other public policy measures this century to promote public health.

In our modern pluralist society, the lifestyle approach to sexual health reflects our wish to recognise that conventional approaches to morality are no longer adequate and that informed choice is an essential underpinning of sexual health. However, the ability to make an informed choice is affected by many facets of our lives.

Behavioural, emotional, social and political factors all impact on an individual's ability to take control of and enjoy their sexuality, and to protect and celebrate their sexual health with knowledge and confidence.

In recent years, the main thrust of public health policy in

sexual health has been towards raising awareness about HIV/Aids and the establishment of services to treat and care for people who have contracted HIV. Less attention has been paid to other aspects, particularly inequalities in the ability to exercise choice and autonomy, the integration of sexual health into generic health and social policies and practice, and to the sexual health needs of socially excluded groups.

While specialised services are frequently clear and focused in their approach, there is often confusion and ambivalence about the potential contribution of non-specialists to the promotion of sexual health. Locating sexual health firmly within the new public health agenda opens up the possibility of a new approach to enhancing human health and well-being by promoting the healing and creative power of sexuality.

We need a definition of sexual health that reflects sexuality as positive and life-enhancing, and an awareness of the social, economic and political forces that impact on sexual health for individuals

and communities. The Family Planning Association's definition of sexual health is "the capacity and freedom to enjoy and express sexuality without exploitation, oppression, physical or mental harm".

If we examine how the population's sexual health measures up to this definition, we find that there is a wealth of qualitative and quantitative evidence which indicates that sexual health is poor.

Inequalities exist, such as a higher age of consent for gay men, which has reduced their freedom to protect their sexual health. The relationship between teenage pregnancy, low socio-economic status and low educational achievement illustrates the disadvantaged position of particular groups of young women. And the needs of boys and men are not adequately recognised, so they are rarely met by sexual health services.

Indicators of sexual health show a worrying position: approximately one-fifth of all pregnancies end in abortion; there were 446,000 cases of sexual infections diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine clinics in 1997, an overall increase of 5 per cent; a sixth of couples seek assistance for infertility. These figures demonstrate the current deficit in sexual health and the urgent need for action.

There must be a coherent national approach to sexual health as a primary component of human health overall. We need the Government to ensure that its new sexual health strategy employs an integrated approach, to avoid the

issue being marginalised because of a narrow, problem-led focus.

It should include a number of key objectives: encouraging openness, knowledge and understanding about sex; ensuring that all young people receive effective education about sex and relationships; and reducing inequalities by prioritising interventions for groups with poorer sexual health.

In addition to the overall strategy and the integration of sexual health into mainstream services, social inequalities need to be tackled in culturally sensitive specialist services. This has important consequences for the ethos and values of local services.

Sexual health is central to well-being and has a major impact on physical and mental health. The current problem-led approach limits the effectiveness of policies to meet the needs of all the population. We need a new approach, a new strategy that places sexual health firmly within the public health agenda and, in so doing, celebrates sex and relationships as key components of a happy and successful society.



# Sex, lust and confusion



TERENCE  
BLACKER

The English male has  
confused desire with  
a yearning for a woman  
who can take charge

A CERTAIN amount of unseemly boastfulness has attended the allegations that two of Hollywood's most beautiful and dignified film stars, Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, required daily coaching in the art of making love from a couple of English - yes, English - sex experts.

Elsewhere, as if to confirm this new and unexpected aspect of the national character, it was reported that Candace Bushnell, the American author of reports from the front line of New York singledom, *Sex and the City*, had visited London and found that Englishmen were wonderful, sensitive, erotically attuned creatures. The international rumours about their performance - starting much too slowly, ending much too quickly, and so on - had been put about by jealous Englishwomen anxious to discourage potential sex tourists from flying in from Manhattan.

It is all very flattering and, some would say, after decades of leering contempt from smug, randy foreigners like Norman Mailer, much overdue. "She had a gift," Mailer wrote in *An American Dream*, before interrupting his sex scene for a joke at our expense. "She was giving me a short lecture with her tongue on the habits of the Germans, the French, the English (one sorry bite, indeed), the Italians, the Spanish." The cliché about the English being bad in bed has been given a regular outing in books and TV programmes ever since, and even appeared on TV in last week's *Prosper*, an episode during which the ghostly Daphne was revealed never to have slept with her boyfriend. "She's English," Niles explained to gales of knowing laughter from the studio audience.

No doubt, the ever-busy spinners of Westminster will seize on the Kidman/Cruise case and Bushnell's enthusiastic endorsement and set out to change our image in this, as in other areas. Forget Cool Britannia, the message will go out. From now on, it's Red-Hot Britannia. Pistol-between-the-Sheets Britannia.

If this is the case, the first target for the marketing folk should be the English sex symbol - for nothing reveals more about our confusions and insecurities than the examples of national womanhood that are held



Diana Dors at home in Maidenhead, 1956: the 'dirty-postcard blonde' - for the British male, up there with the 'mummy' and 'jolly little sister' ideals of womanhood

up by the media as exemplars of erotic perfection.

How startling it must be for a foreign visitor, for example, to discover that according to the press, the entire male population is in lustful thrall to a cheerful, ruddy-faced, ginger-haired gardener whose main claim to fame appears to be that she mulches and digs without wearing a bra under her shirt. To her credit, Charlie Dymock is as startled and embarrassed as anyone by her elevation to the ranks of national pin-up, although a quick consideration of other favourite fantasy figures suggests that her solid, homely, unthreatening good looks and no-nonsense competence made her ideally qualified.

For, somewhere along the line, the English male seems to have confused desire with a deep, irrepressible yearning for a woman who can take charge, who can bring order and discipline and a certain rough companionship to his life.

It would be too easy to blame the class system with its nannies and boarding schools for this longing for an authority figure, and it would also be wrong: every Englishman, whatever his background, seems to

hanker after a Mummy figure.

Twenty years ago, a character such as the newsreader Angela Rippon or the sullen actress Glenda Jackson played the role to perfection. Serious, ambitious and masterful, they were occasionally skittish enough to appear in self-parodic mode on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas show. During the Eighties, the entire nation abased itself in masochistic adoration of Margaret Thatcher, with the more daring MPs and political commentators later owning up to what Julian Critchley described as "a bat-squeak of sexual desire" as she bullied and hectored us all.

Somehow, as the Mummy figures grow older, their allure remains. There are film and theatre critics who will still attest to the allure of Dame Judi Dench, while Charlotte Rampling, now at an age when she no longer frightens us with her dangerous, erotic power, has also become a leading sex symbol of the Mummy variety. In the political arena, Clare Short has taken over the Thatcher role while Harriet Harman, described by Cycles Brandreth in his forthcoming diaries as "an inexplicable half-inch away

from being wonderfully attractive", is waiting in the wings. In fact, for the Mummy figure, matters of conventional attractiveness are of secondary importance: doubtless there are discipline-crazed Englishmen who harbour intimate fantasies about Ann Widdecombe. While it would be unfair on all parties to put Charlie Dymock in that company, she intoxicatingly combines the bossy competence of the mother figure with a hint of that other English sex symbol, the jolly little sister, most memorably exemplified by Felicity Kendal.

Equally reassuring to the English male is the more obvious pin-up, the dirty-postcard blonde, with her inevitably large breasts spilling in comic profusion out of a low-cut dress. The trendsetter here was probably Diana Dors, whose life is being dramatised in ITV's *The Blonde Bombshell* this week, and who was the subject of Sunday paper title-tattle over the weekend. "She was not sexy," a former lover called Michael Caborn-Wakefield recalled. "She was one of the least randy girls I ever went out with. For her, sex was a game."

That, of course, is the point of the

dirty-postcard blonde. The exaggerated blowness of Dors and such successors as Barbara Windsor, Samantha Fox and Melinda Messenger does not represent sex any more than a McMillan postcard or a Carry On film does. It's an idea of naughtiness, a one-dimensional substitute, something hilarious and furtive, a quick flash of knicker, a giggle, maybe even a grope, while the missus's back is turned. The idea of a genuinely arousing scene - touch, tension, feeling, vulnerability - involving Babs or Sammy or Melinda, is unthinkable. They stand for the female distant, comical, inflated and, above all, safe.

If only we could report that it was only the English male who was fearful of intimacy, preferring authority, competence or a laugh to the real thing; but there is evidence that women are just as confused. Alan Titchmarsh, the grinning, bashful middle-aged gardener is said to set hearts a-flutter across the Home Counties. Even more disturbingly, Des Lynam was reported to be receiving 10,000 letters from adoring female fans during last year's World Cup coverage, the tabloids describing him, in all apparent seri-

ousness, as "the nation's heart-throb". The blazer, the boring saloon-bar drone, the twinkle in the eye, the grey moustache: are there really women across the country for whom this is the stuff of erotic fantasy? It defies the imagination.

The spin doctors aiming to re-brand the country's sexual image might also have a word with our novelists. In fiction, perhaps as in life, something goes awry when the Englishman becomes passionate. Who could forget the sex scene in Richard Thorneley's *The Dark Clarinet* when, at a key moment of seduction, the lover was received "like the flaps of a security-screening machine at an airport", or Kingsley Amis's attempt at erotic fervour in *The Green Man*? "There was a lot of wool and other material, some cheek, some panting, some movement, some pressure and lack of everything else. Suddenly it all turned very immediate and as much as anybody could deal with."

Some cheek, some panting, Charlie Dymock, Des Lynam. If this is the English way of sex that Nicole and Tom are alleged to have been learning, no wonder they ended up in court.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

STEPHEN  
RICHARDS



A member of the  
Campaign for an  
English Parliament  
replies to an article  
by Anne McElvoy

IT IS wrong for Anne McElvoy to characterise all those of us who are calling for an English parliament as "smug, arrogant and excluding southerners". Only some of us are like that!

Indeed Ms McElvoy's suggestions for a new English patron saint emphasise what a diverse lot we are in England. This diversity is represented by the membership of the Campaign for an English Parliament. We have members from Yorkshire to Dorset and from Herefordshire to Norfolk. The campaign includes Europhiles and Europhobes; members of the Conservative and the Labour Parties; monarchists and republicans. Most of us have not been active in politics before.

An English parliament, perhaps outside London, need not mean more politicians and more expense. A smaller UK parliament at Westminster and a renegotiation of the Barnett formula should mean that the English parliament would pay for itself.

We are not opposed to regionalism, but do have some concerns about the creation of competing regions without any overall national focus for England.

If the UK Parliament becomes the guardian of England's interests, what credibility will it have in Scotland? If the UK Parliament cannot represent England's interests, who will?

We are calling for a constitutional convention to examine all the options for the government of England. Proposals developed by the convention would be put to the people of England in a referendum. An free and open debate is surely better than trying to pretend that there are no shortcomings to the present arrangements. Perhaps what our opponents fear is that this would open up a genuine debate about how we are governed.

## Tales of wine and chocolate

IN HENRY James's last completed novel, there is a scene in which a Continental aristocrat remarks that tea, for the English, has a very particular relationship with morality: "so that the more one drank the more moral one became". In *Chocolat*, the third novel by Joanne Harris, chocolate occupies a comparable position. Throughout the moody and atmospheric narrative, chocolate is directly or indirectly responsible for the healing of family rifts and for bringing the idea of hope to the community's more desperate inhabitants; it serves as a spur to change for the oppressed characters; it even acts as a sort of solid, malleable foil to hypocrisy.

*Chocolat* tells the story of Vianne



Rocher, a mysterious and exotic woman who arrives in the French village of Lansquenet with her daughter Anouk, and almost immediately opens a little chocolate shop and café. The villagers soon flock to La Céleste Praline, eager to sample its dazzling selection of confectionery: the three-nut cluster, the Eastern Journey, the

### TUESDAY BOOKS

#### CHOCOLAT

BY JOANNE HARRIS. DOUBLEDAY. £12.99

#### THE VINTNER'S LUCK

BY ELIZABETH KNOX. CHATTO & WINDUS. £10



*pêche au miel millefleurs* soaked in *eau de vie*, and the Nipples of Venus. But La Céleste Praline is not without its detractors. The more religious villagers are angered by its opening on the first day of Lent and soon Vianne has a fevered adversary in Father Reynaud, who resembles a petty, vindictive priest from a Balzac story, although he lacks the intellectual powers of such a character. A portion of the novel is told from Reynaud's point of view and, as his fury with Vianne as temptress and champion of the dispossessed mounts, we are party to his psychotic fantasies of revenge.

As the story unfolds, more instances of the discord at the heart of this apparently serene village come to light. La Céleste Praline soon becomes a sort of sanctuary, where Vianne feeds chocolate to the villagers and listens to their fears and hopes and dreams. Harris writes confident and stylish prose. The technical descriptions of chocolate-making, which are my favourite parts, are written as though the process itself were a sort of magic. If the book is slightly lacking in the emotional intensity it seeks, *Chocolat* is still a richly textured tale, evoking the claustrophobia of village life, and its amusements, with an impressively light touch.

In *The Vintner's Luck* by the New Zealand writer Elizabeth Knox, wine takes almost as important a role in the lives of the characters as chocolate does in Harris's book. Set in 19th-century Burgundy, the novel opens one

midsummer evening when Sobran Jodeau, a young wine grower, is visited by an angel in his vineyard. The angel is a physically beautiful creature with huge wings and a smell of snow. The confused adolescent Sobran appeals to it for guidance in matters of the heart.

*The Vintner's Luck* chronicles the angel's visits to Sobran, every year on the anniversary of that first night. Sobran and the angel drink wine from his vineyard, and soon their relationship seems to Sobran the most valuable and important in his life. Through marriage and fatherhood, improvements in the vineyards, the ups and downs of Sobran's military career and family disputes, the angel acts as a spiritual guide, almost a branch of his con-

science, as well as Sobran's closest friend. When one of his daughters dies, the angel even agrees to check that she is all right in heaven. After a while, their partnership falters when it becomes clear that angels can have uncomfortable secrets and lapses of spirit, too.

*The Vintner's Luck* is a strange book, both whimsical and deeply ambitious. Although rich with twists of fate and feeling, it does not wholly convince in its evocation of 19th-century France, nor in its darting between real and imaginary worlds. At times the narrative aims for a sort of fluid, worldly ease, like that of, say, André Gide's novel *The Immoralist*. At other moments, it seems to strive for quite a fanciful, almost fairy-tale tone, and then suddenly seems to see itself as a historical epic, novel of ideas, or even a poem. Although I did not find it wholly successful, some of its incidents are sharply drawn and memorable - such as when the hero, travelling as a soldier, has sex with a pregnant Russian prostitute whose waters suddenly break around them.

SUSIE BOYT



Chocolate changes character in Joanne Harris's novel Mark Noullan

### TUESDAY POEM

#### SEASHELLS

BY PAUL VERLAINE, TRANSLATED BY NORMAN R SHAPIRO

Each seashell in the walls where we  
Made love - our grotto rendezvous -  
Has its own special property.

One has our souls' deep crimson hue  
Snatched from our hearts' blood when I flare  
And flame with passion, as do you;

This one affects that look you wear -  
Languid and pale - when, listless, spent,  
You could me for my mocking air;

This one would sport the innocent  
Curve of your ear; that one, like bud  
Of rose, your neck's: pink, corpulent;

But one there was that fired my blood.

From 'One Hundred and One Poems' by Paul Verlaine: a bilingual edition, translated by Norman R Shapiro (University of Chicago Press, £19.95). © The University of Chicago. All rights reserved



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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE



# Melba Liston

THE CODE of behaviour at ladies' finishing schools never recommended taking up the trombone. The instrument didn't rival the piano or the cello in drawing room decorum. And yet the only two well-known women trombonists were both glamorous to look at. Melba Liston was one of them and the English Annie Whitehead, assured enough to appear naked with her horn on the sleeve of her last CD, was the other.

Melba Liston certainly saw every side of show business. On one occasion she was stranded with Billie Holiday, both of them broke, in a hostile South Carolina, and on another she walked about playing a harp in the film *The Ten Commandments* (1956). She suffered the perils of being the only woman in travelling big bands. "Rapes and everything. I've been going through that stuff for all my life. Yeah, well, you know, it's a broad and she's by herself. I'd just go to the doctor and tell him, and that was that. But the older I got, the less it happened. I don't know how old I was," she laughed, "but it stopped all together."

It was her talents as a composer and arranger that distinguished her, rather than her work as an instrumentalist. She wrote scores for innumerable big bands including those of Quincy Jones, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. Her long association with her mentor, the pianist and composer Randy Weston, took her to the forefront of modern jazz and Tony Bennett, Billie Holiday, Abbey Lincoln and Diana Ross were among the vocalists that commissioned work from her. She recalled,

*She suffered the perils of being the only woman in travelling big bands. 'Rapes and everything. I'd just go to the doctor and tell him, and that was that'*

"I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but I was raised between there and Kansas City, Kansas, where my grandparents were. I got my trombone when I was seven. They decided to form a music class at my elementary school and a travelling music store came with a variety of instruments. When I saw the trombone I thought how beautiful it looked and knew I just had to have one. No one told me that it was difficult to master. All I knew was that it was pretty and I wanted one."

She had problems using the slide: "I was tall then, but I didn't reach to sixth and seventh position. I used to have to turn my head sideways." By the time she was eight, Liston was good enough to play solo trombone on the local radio. Her mother had found a trombone teacher for her. "He wasn't right. I don't know how, but I knew. So I said no, cancelled, and went on my own. I was always good in my ears, so I could play by ear."

The family moved to Los Angeles in 1937. Liston was bright enough to join high school there in the eighth grade, although she had only been in the sixth in Kansas. "My music teacher at the school was real nice. He rode home with me and asked my mother could he adopt me. He said he wanted to further my music and he wanted to send me off to some teachers. But I didn't go. I just wanted to stay home with my mom." Some of her schoolfriends introduced Liston to Alma Hightower, a music teacher who ran a big band

made up of children from the neighbourhood. But the two fell out after four years when, at 16, Liston joined the musicians' union. Her teacher thought that she wasn't ready for such a step.

Liston joined the pit band at the Lincoln Theatre in Los Angeles:

"They would have a movie and then the show would take over. The all-girl Sweethearts of Rhythm band played at the Lincoln and they wanted to take me with them when they finished. I was riding with two of them and they got to carrying on - I mean not carrying on with each other. And I said, 'I'll be back', and I went and hid. Then I went and told my mother. I went on back with the band at the Lincoln. I was writing music by this time for the time for different acts who would come in and didn't have their music. I was at the Lincoln for about a year, I guess."

In 1943 the theatre stopped having shows and Liston joined a new big band being formed by the trumpeter Gerald Wilson, who had just left the Jimmy Lunceford band. Wilson's band was good enough to go out on tour and when it reached New York took over from Duke Ellington at the Apollo Theatre. It made records back in Los Angeles, and

in 1949, Liston went again with Gerald Wilson, who had been hired to form a band to accompany Billie Holiday on a tour of the South. "It was a little ahead for people down there. They weren't ready for Billie Holiday and this Bebop band, what they really wanted was dance music. The farther we got, the smaller the audience became and by the time we reached South Carolina there was just nobody. We finally made it to Kansas City and then sent for money from Los Angeles. It was two days getting to us. So we had a lot of oatmeal."

Liston was so disillusioned that she left the band and gave up music. She returned to Los Angeles where, for three years, she took a job as an administrator for the Board of Education. She temporarily gave up the trombone, but continued to compose and arrange. "The job was good experience and brought me out a little. I used to be very shy and hardly ever spoke to strangers, so it kind of freed me up." At this point she had a brief subsidiary career as a film actress. She said of this experience:

"I had a long thing with Lana Turner and walked around behind her playing a harp in *The Prodigal* (1955) and was a member of the palace orchestra in *The Ten Commandments*. I was tall and skinny then and they said that had they known about me sooner they could have used me in several of those Egyptian movies. I never really took acting seriously. It was nice doing those movies but they're all crazy out there in Hollywood."

In 1956 Gillespie was invited to form a big band to tour the Middle East and Asia on behalf of the State Department. Liston gave up the administrative job and rejoined the band. She returned to it the following year when the State Department sent Gillespie to South America. This was a historic band and it had some of Liston's best writing at the heart of its library. Her best arrangements for it included "Annie's Dance", "My Reverie", "Stella By Starlight" and "The Gypsy", all of which were recorded. Fellow musicians abused her at this time: "When I started going with Gerald Wilson I was okay because I had his support so I didn't have to worry. But when I went back into Dizzy's band, it was the same thing all over again." She appeared with Gillespie's band at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1957, and the subsequent recording survives as one of the most exciting of all big band albums. Liston played a powerful solo on the piece "Cool Breeze".

Quincy Jones had been a trumpeter in Gillespie's band and when he formed a band to tour in Europe with the show "Free and Easy" with music by Harold Arlen he asked Liston to join. "Several of us who were in Dizzy's band went with Quincy's orchestra. I was writing all the time for that band and Quincy would write the light tunes. They were his kind of thing. Ernie Wilkins wrote the hard-swinging Basie-type numbers and I did the ballads and standards. We had a nice little family circle going." Despite its popularity the package hit financial



Liston playing at the Nice Jazz Festival, 1980

David Redfern

problems, and the musicians had great difficulty getting back to New York where, loyal to Jones, they rejoined his band when he put it together again.

Liston spent most of the Sixties working in New York freelancing as an arranger and playing on studio sessions. She was house arranger and conductor for the Riverside record label. She scored the music for albums by Milt Jackson, Randy Weston, Gloria Lynne and Johnny Griffin. She also arranged albums for Marvin Gaye, Billy Eckstine and the Supremes. She worked often with the trumpeter Clark Terry and they briefly coled a big band. She also played for Charlie Mingus, appearing at his infamous New York Town Hall concert of 1962.

But the most important event of the period was the establishment of her long-term musical partnership with Randy Weston who was also working for Riverside. Initially he employed her to put flesh onto his compositions. "Melba is incredible;

she hears what I do and then expands it," said the composer. "She will create a melody that sounds like I created it. She's just a great, great arranger."

Returning to Los Angeles in the late Sixties she worked with youth orchestras. She moved to Jamaica in 1973, staying there until 1979. She taught at the University of the West Indies and the Jamaica Institute of Music in Kingston. On her return to Los Angeles she formed an all-girl septet called Melba Liston and Company. The group was the main attraction at the 1979 Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival. Although she dropped the all-girl line up, the band survived until 1983.

The partnership with Weston flourished and in all the two made many albums together, including *Blues to Africa*, *High Life*, *Little Niles*, *Spirits of Our Ancestors*, *Tanjah*, *Music of the New African Nations*, *Volcano Blues* and *Music of the New African Nations*. "We never said it directly," said Weston,

explaining the philosophy of their composing,

but we both knew that to do a recording we would want to have the older musicians to give us that foundation, and then we would get the younger musicians on top. The older musicians have the know-how, they know all the secret things that we don't know about music. Melba always made sure that we would have that kind of base."

Liston was due to appear at the Camden Jazz Festival in 1986 but was prevented from doing so by the first of several strokes, and from then on was confined to a wheelchair. Subsequent strokes forced her to give up playing, but she continued to compose and arrange. Last week a concert was given in her and Randy Weston's honour at Harvard University.

STEVE VOCE

Melba Doretta Liston, trombonist, composer and arranger: born Kansas City, Missouri 13 January 1926; married; died Los Angeles 23 April 1999.

# Michael Melford

IT WAS characteristic of Michael Melford that, when asked to write a book on cricket since 1945, he told the publisher "with more truth than modesty that I was not of the stuff of which historians are made". The publisher persisted and "we settled for a contemporary view of events in the last 45 years."

Melford then balked at the publishers' proposed title: "Melford on Cricket" and would settle for nothing more vainglorious than *After the Interval*. The book was published in 1990 and remains an unsung minor classic, a scrupulously fair account, written with wit and insight, of what we can now see was the Indian summer of English cricket, the last years before the making of profit became more important than playing the game.

Michael Melford was born in St John's Wood, north London, in 1916, the son of Austin Melford, whose name can be seen among the credits of several British films of the 1930s, who helped revive the seaside pierrot shows at the Apollo Theatre in the 1920s and who was a leading member of the Co-Optimists. Michael, in contrast to a man of the theatre, preferred not to be centre-stage, if anything, rather off-stage.

He was a leading middle-distance runner at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, and a member of the Oxford athletics team that toured North America in 1937; he won a Blue the following year and took a degree in Law.

He wrote memories of that American tour in *I Was There*, a series of reminiscences by *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph* sportswriters published in 1966. Oxford and Cambridge, reported Melford, had defeated Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Cornell.

Our victories, however, had been achieved only by the odd event - and they had been won by the brilliance of the few, including Ali Khan, the massive Turk, who was allergic to training and lay on his bed all day to avoid what he called stentness but rose in time to win the Weight.

Melford joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and with three two-pounder anti-tank guns was ordered to defend a stretch of the Scottish coast, the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews. "All those heroes of those and other days," he wrote, "if they wanted the Old Course to survive, had to rely on a perfectly ghastly player with a slice which ranked high among the horrors of war or peace."

He served in Egypt, Tunisia and Italy, was demobilised from the Balkans, in the rank of major, and was appointed athletics correspondent of *The Observer* in 1946, later occupying the same post with the *Daily Telegraph*, covering the Olympic Games in Melbourne 1956 and Rome 1960.



Melford: 'Who are you?'

He became deputy to E.W. Swanton on the cricket pages and the first cricket correspondent of the newly founded *Sunday Telegraph*. He served the two newspapers with distinction for 32 years and after his retirement continued to write obituaries and contribute to *The Telegraph Cricket Yearbook*. He was a close friend of Peter May and helped May with his memoirs *A Game Enjoyed* (1985). He was also associate editor of the first edition of the encyclopaedic *World of Cricket* (1966).

Despite his self-disparagement he was both a useful cricketer, playing for Hampstead and Nondestcripts, and a golfer respectable enough to be asked to write a history of the Denham club. He offered a shy but warming welcome to newcomers to the England press box during his own tenure there where his dignity and demeanour made him never less than an elder statesman.

On his last tour, in the West Indies, in 1981 the England party was dogged by an enthusiastic follower, a retired manufacturer from Yorkshire. Albert was affable but could not refrain from talking about his business, his ups and downs, his deals and takeovers. On the penultimate night of the tour, Melford, at a loose end, seeing Albert alone by the bar, invited him to dine. Melford listened stoically to him for almost two hours.

The following morning, he told us: "Strange chap, Albert. At the end of the meal he stood up, thanked me and then asked 'Who are you?'"

DEREK HODGSON

Michael Austin Melford, cricket writer: born London 9 November 1916; married Lorna Powell (two daughters); died Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire 19 April 1999.

# Martin Shuttleworth



Shuttleworth: rebel with many causes

IT IS said that writers of exiguous output - E.M. Forster and Bruce Chatwin the names most often quoted - enjoy reputations in excess of their worth. If so, Martin Shuttleworth should be a writer of inordinate fame, for in a long career of devoted authorship he completed and published very little.

The maverick son of a soldier (General Sir Digby Shuttleworth of the Indian Army), Shuttleworth went predictably to Wellington and more typically to King's College, Cambridge, where he read English. Among contemporary friends there he numbered Simon Raven and Mark Boxer.

In 1957 his appointment as literary editor of the weekly *Time & Tide* convinced him early that office life was not for him, and he was at once more at home writing verse plays for David Thomson at the BBC Third

Programme. Leaving London for good in 1960, winning a prize fellowship in Bristol University's drama department, Shuttleworth wrote a play, *Good Song*, for the Bristol Old Vic and formed a film company that lived long enough to produce a pair of commendable documentaries.

For the next two decades, writing all the time, he continued to haunt the provinces, first as head of Liberal Studies at the Leicester College of Art and Design (from 1967), then at the Portsmouth Polytechnic (from 1971), where running the Fine Art department allowed him again to make films, and finally to Farnham (from 1979), where he was both tutor and librarian at the West Surrey College of Art and Design.

Not least of his gifts as a teacher and man was the charm and fluency of his running commentary on life,

both anecdotal and exploratory, which he delivered with total openness, passion and merriment. His talk ran rings round life's ordinary confusions. He was a master of the digression so engaging that bringing him back to the point seemed ill-mannered. In a witty way he also remained an undergraduate subversive, a rebel with too many causes to cope with.

His retreat to his adored Spain in 1988 was an advance, a final act of self-liberation from routine. Earlier, in 1982, for Sue Bradbury at the Folio Society, "this big untidy vagabond of a man" (as she describes him) translated "superbly well" from the Spanish Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's *The War in Granada*. He threw himself into 16th-century Andalusian wars with such longing to illuminate the subject from within that his introduction almost rivalled the book in

length. His inability to cut forced Folio to "induce the birth" by taking the typescript into their own hands.

So with Shuttleworth's voluminous fiction. Rumours were always circulating of vast novels under way. A mountainous thriller was completed, apart from finishing touches. His perfectionism partook of neurosis; he balked at completing a book for fear of betraying its original design. Lately he wrote most of a novel, *Bonzo*, about a psychiatrist with a skeleton not only in his cupboard but actually in his consulting room, the bones of a German aristocrat labelled in Spanish, which Shuttleworth managed to conjure into an effortless metaphor. The book will surely surface.

His marriage in 1953 to Diana Moorsom was of the closest. To their children, Benedict, Emma, Lucy and Jason, their parents offered

the lure of liberty, the patience of care and the benefit of the doubt.

Martin Shuttleworth was the most open-air man of his literary generation, careless of his career, never happier than when walking in the high Pyrenees, delighted to get back to his desk provided he had no deadlines. His most recent enterprise, which he insisted on calling a potboiler, was *Just in Case*, a bilingual guide to the language of illness, useful equally to doctor and patient, when sick in Spain or Britain. He had just sold the English rights. His last work looks doomed to success.

DAVID HUGHES

Martin Digby George Shuttleworth, writer and teacher: born Neveer, Pembrokeshire 28 August 1929; married 1953 Diana Moorsom (two sons, two daughters); died London 19 April 1999.

# Bob Irving

BOB IRVING was one of the best and strongest-running second-row forwards of his era, who shared in Great Britain's most memorable rugby league successes but who generally managed to be at the wrong club at the wrong time during his domestic career.

Although he was born and played his early rugby in Huddersfield, with the St Joseph's club, he was pinched from under the noses of the local professional side by Oldham and taken over the Pennines at the age of 16. His impact there was so immediate that he was a regular in the first team pack by the end of that 1964-65 season. Not the tallest of forwards, his great asset was the way that he

could break through defences with the explosive power of his running.

Selection for Great Britain Under-24s soon followed, and for his native Yorkshire. By 1967, he was also a fixture in the Great Britain side, playing twice against France and then in all three Tests in the series that was lost to Australia in the deciding match at Swinton.

Irving was also a member of the 1970 Lions touring party to Australia - the last to return home with the Ashes - although he played only in the first Test at Brisbane. He was back in the starting line-up for the New Zealand leg of the tour.

Indeed, it was remarkable that he figured in international delibera-

tions at all, because he was a member of one of Oldham's poorest sides; the preceding 1969-70 season had been the worst in their history, as they finished a lowly 29th in the Rugby League's single division. They would have suffered the ignominy of finishing 30th and last if Irving had not scored the try that beat Batley in the final match of the season.

On a more exalted stage, Irving was a member of Great Britain's World Cup-winning side in France in 1972. By the time he left Oldham in 1973, Irving had won 11 Great Britain caps and his record in a lacklustre club side also shows what an effective forward he had become. In 296 appearances, he had scored 80

tries for the Roughyeds, without which they would have been in even more dire straits.

On his departure, Irving had the misfortune to be a member of one of the less successful Wigan teams of the post-war period, although he was in the side that beat Salford to win the Lancashire Cup during his first season at Central Park. In four seasons, he played 154 games - this was long before anyone worried about the workload on players - and showed that he had not lost his eye for the try-scoring chance by crossing the line 40 times before he moved on in 1977.

The rest of Irving's career saw him wandering from club to club,

starting with Salford, followed by Barrow, then in one of their ambitious phases of importing players from Lancashire and Yorkshire in a bid to recapture their glory days. He played and, for six months, coached at Blackpool Borough, the town where he had a hotel, until he was sacked in the middle of a particularly bad run of defeats.

His last club was Swinton and he retained his knack of try-scoring to the extent that his last months as a player in 1983 still brought him seven tries in 18 appearances. It was a tally that younger forwards would have envied.

At the time of his death, Irving was planning to return to Australia

with the Rugby League Lions' Association to watch Great Britain this autumn. By a remarkable coincidence, the Test side is now coached by a man whose career followed Irving's almost exactly. Andy Goodway, a Yorkshireman who played for Oldham and Wigan, also made his name as a devastating ball-runner from the second-row. That helps to illustrate the way that Irving's playing style set a pattern for the future.

DAVE HADFIELD

Robert Irving, rugby league player: born Huddersfield, Yorkshire 15 December 1948; died Blackpool, Lancashire 18 April 1999.



Michael Melford

## Jill Dando



Dando in Sydney Harbour, 1996, while shooting an episode of *Holiday* for the BBC

BBC

THE COVER of this week's *Radio Times* shows a 37-year-old woman at the prime of her professional career and about to take the most significant step of her personal life. Jill Dando was moving on from the *Holiday* programme, where she had become part of the nation's consciousness, synonymous with entertaining, yet insightful, reports from around the world, to her new series, *Antiques Inspectors*. The move was in part because she planned to marry her boyfriend, Alan Farthing, in September. She told the magazine that "getting married this autumn was certainly an additional incentive to spend rather more time in England".

Jill Dando was born in Weston-super-Mare in 1961. When she was a few months old, she was diagnosed as having a hole in the heart. She received major surgery at the age of three, from which she made a complete recovery. At Worle comprehensive school in the Somerset resort she was, by all accounts, an unremarkable schoolgirl with an uncommon interest in television: she once wrote to Jimmy Savile asking him to fix it for her to appear on TV. After taking her O levels, she moved to Broadoak Sixth-Form Centre where she became head girl in 1979.

Her single-mindedness steered her straight from A levels to a journalism course at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education and a job on her local newspaper, the *Weston and Somerset Mercury*. In terms of her later career, the time she spent as a print journalist there was relatively languid, though she did become an accomplished member of the local amateur dramatic society.

In 1985 Dando's potential as a broadcaster was spotted by John Lilley of BBC Radio Devon. Her appointment as a reporter marked the start of a highly productive and successful career with the corporation. She became presenter of the station's breakfast programme, and was soon signed up by BBC South West's television news magazine, *Spotlight*.

Her ability to glide seemingly effortlessly from one medium to another was a testament to her professionalism and sheer hard work, unimpeded by the kind of complicated personal life that often blights the career of rising stars. In 1986, when she was 24, her mother died after an 18-month battle with leukaemia; her father still lives in Weston-super-Mare.

Dando's personal and professional roles converged when she moved to network television in 1988, aged 26. Bob Wheaton, then editor of *Breakfast Time*, recruited her initially as an occasional stand-in presenter on the BBC1 morn-

ing news magazine. As her presenting shifts became more regular, she began a long and occasionally stormy relationship with Wheaton that was to last for most of the Nineties.

BBC executives spotted her potential for other, higher-profile shows. In 1993 she rejuvenated the long-established *Holiday* programme by bringing a mix

of journalistic integrity and genuine charm to travel television. She thrived on punishing filming schedules - 80,000 miles or more in a year - combined with regular stints as BBC1 newscaster and *Crimewatch* presenter.

Her fellow *Crimewatch* presenter, Nick Ross, said yesterday, "You will only ever hear kind things about Jill, because

*Under intense pressure to get everything right on the first take, she remained as dignified off camera as she was on screen*

elling, but the encounter was telling. In 1994 I was on holiday at a resort in Jordan when a coachload of tourists, plus film crew, suddenly turned up. Dando was making a film about a high-speed holiday dash, and was obliged to work in real time to fit in with the tour operator's schedule. Under intense pressure to get everything right on the first take,

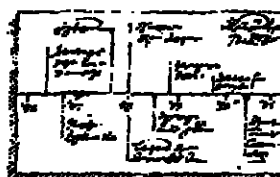
she remained both shiningly professional and resonantly human - as modest, decent and dignified off camera as she was on screen.

Throughout her rise to fame, Dando remained down-to-earth and caring; she worked hard for charity as well as for the BBC. Recently, her personal life became ascendant: in January this year Dando's new boyfriend, the gynaecologist Alan Farthing, proposed to her. She accepted, and the couple had planned to marry in a church ceremony in September after her stint presenting the *Holiday* spin-off *Summer Holiday*.

Only very rarely does a broadcaster become so much a part of our lives that the mere mention of the name is enough to conjure up an instant and wholly positive image. Jill Dando achieved this in a television career that lasted barely a decade.

SIMON CALDER

Jill Wendy Dando, broadcaster: born Weston-super-Mare, Somerset 9 November 1961; died London 26 April 1999.



### HISTORICAL NOTES

CULLEN MURPHY

## Was the first human being really a male?

A FEW weeks ago, newspapers throughout Europe and North America carried a story about the unveiling, in New York, of the first page of "the only handwritten and illuminated bible to be commissioned since the advent of the printing press 500 years ago". The new manuscript bible, whose calligraphy is to be done by the scribe to Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords, will incorporate imagery "reflecting a multicultural world".

It will be interesting to see how much of that imagery, if any, draws on the insights of three decades of writing and research by feminist scholars on biblical matters. The Bible is famous for being the world's most over-studied book, but it has not been overstudied by women. Until recently, it was studied by female scholars hardly at all, let alone by female scholars who were interested specifically in what the Bible had to say about women - and who were interested in challenging or reinterpreting much of what they found the Bible to be saying.

That has changed. Today the Bible is being confronted not only by women who are theologians, and who have overtly religious motivations, but also by women who are biblical scholars, linguists, historians, archaeologists, and literary critics. The influx of women into these fields has brought a

new vitality to meetings of biblical societies.

The women taking on the Bible have much to confront. As a prescriptive text, the Bible has been interpreted down the ages as explaining the creation of woman as an afterthought; as defining the purpose of woman to be the servant of man; and as laying the blame on a woman, Eve, for humanity's expulsion from Eden.

Prescriptions aside, the implicit sexual outlook of the Bible's content is frequently disturbing. Yes, the Bible offers portraits of heroic and exemplary women. More often, it depicts women as schemers and tricksters, as threats to virtue and purity. Alternatively, it depicts women as pawns or victims, as disposable objects of divine or masculine will. And there is no getting around the basic androcentricity of the Bible.

In the Hebrew Bible, only about 115 of the 1,400 people who are given names are women; the proportion of women in the New Testament is only a little better. Five books of the Bible make no reference to women at all. And what about all those "be-gats", in which procreation is depicted as an accomplishment for which men deserve all the credit?

And yet, for women, the biblical situation is perhaps not quite as bleak as it is sometimes made out to be. Many aspects of the Bible

will always be profoundly distressing - and no amount of scholarship can argue around them. But the Bible sometimes offers more of a resource for feminists - be they interested in historical or religious issues - than might at first appear.

For example, does the theology of the Creation stories actually point to the equality of woman and man - centuries of interpretation to the contrary? Might it even be incorrect to think of the first human being, Adam, as a male? Is it incorrect, further, to interpret the Adam and Eve story as a parable of sexual and gender roles, rather than as a parable of moral freedom and personal responsibility?

That new manuscript bible is scheduled to be finished in the year 2004. It will be a work of art. The translation being used, its creators emphasise, is that of the New Revised Standard Version - a translation that takes exquisite pains to use gender-inclusive language. Well, fine. But inclusive language is merely a sideshow. The important feminist activity in biblical scholarship is taking place in a bigger arena. And the show is in for a very long run.

Cullen Murphy is the author of *The Word According to Eve: women and the Bible in ancient times and our own* (Allen Lane, £20).

## GAZETTE

### DEATHS

**BROWN:** Dame Gillian Gerda Brown, DVO CMG, former Ambassador to Norway, died suddenly on 21 April, aged 75. So greatly loved sister of Juliet Franklin and daughter of the late Gerda and Walter Brown. Funeral service at St Mary with St Peter, The Bells, London SW10 on 27 May at 1pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to the Anglo-Norse Society and Somerville College, Oxford, c/o Leverton's, 112 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD. Memorial service to be announced later.

**CRAWLEY:** On 21 April 1999 in King's College Hospital, Robert Hugh, beloved husband of Ann. Private cremation will be followed by thanksgiving memorial service later in the summer. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Médecins Sans Frontières c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 91 Rochester Row, SW1P 1LL. 0171-834 3281.

**DOUGAR:** Joyce, widow of JMD, died peacefully after a long illness on 23 April, in her 77th year. Will be greatly missed by her daughters Anne and Gino, sons-in-law Piero Marigeli and Bruce Miller, grandsons Tom and Darcy, and all her many friends. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to Trinity Hospice, 38 Clapham Common

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

North Side, London SW4 0RN (0171-787 1000).

**KAPLAN:** (née Baranov), Ruth Estelle, partner of Yehuda and mother of Leon, Simon and David, died in hospital on 24 April. Funeral will be held on Thursday 29 April at 3.30pm at The Crematorium, Ridgeway, Haringey, London. Intensely missed by family, friends, comrades and colleagues. If preferred, instead of flowers, donations may be made to Carol Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa. 0171-354 1462.

**SALTER:** Martin, died peacefully at home in Oradea, Romania, on 22 April, after a long and courageous fight against cancer. A much loved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversary notices, In memoriam), call 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

### BIRTHDAYS

Professor John Barron, Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 65; Mr Christopher Battiscombe, ambassador to Jordan, 59; Mr Pk Botha, former South African government minister, 67; Miss Doreen Russell, ballerina, 30; Mr Donald Buttress, Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, 67; The Most Rev Lord Exames, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of All Ireland, 62; Mr Michael Fish, weatherman, 55; The Marquess of Hartington, Her Majesty's Representative, Ascot, 55; Sir Peter Lambert, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 66; The Right Rev Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chester, 64; Mr Jack Kingman, actor, 78; Sir Harry Melville, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 91; Mr Kerry Pollard MP, 55; Mr Gwyn Prosser MP, 56; Mr Richard Ralph, Governor of the Falkland Islands, 53; The Hon Nicholas Serota, Director, the Tate Gallery, 51; Lord Taylor of Gryffe, former chairman, Morgan Grenfell (Scotland), 87.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jean-François Millet, painter, 1842; Edward Gibbon,

historian and writer, 1737; Cecil Day Lewis, poet and novelist, 1904. Deaths: Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, 1404; Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer, 1882; Harold Hart Crane, poet, committed suicide 1932. On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar, 1296; the London Zoological Gardens opened, 1828; Britain recognised the state of Israel, 1950. Today is the Feast Day of St Anthimus of Nicomedia, St Asicus or Tassach, Saints Castor and Stephen, St Floribert of Liege, St Maughold or Maerul, St Zita.

### RECEPTIONS

**Vizard Oldham** The partners of Vizard Oldham, Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents, held a reception yesterday for clients and friends at the Institute of Directors, London SW1, to celebrate the launch of the firm as one of the successor partnerships to the old firm of Vizards, which ceases to exist on 30 April 1999. The reception was preceded by a lecture given by Sir Bruce Martin QC, Chairman of the National Health Service Litigation Authority, entitled "Clinical Negligence Litigation in the New Millennium".

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, presents the Community Entrepreneurs Awards at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal visits Egypt. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the new premises of Nursery Supplies (Bourne) Ltd, Bourne, Lincolnshire; opens the new buildings at the Deputies School, Deputies St, Lincolnshire; and visits Holbeck Hospital, Holbeck, Lincolnshire. The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, British Overseas Trade International, opens the Warrington Business Connections Exhibition at Burtonwood, Warrington; opens the Autogest Stadium at Widnes, Cheshire; opens the Millennium Learning Centre of the Priestley Sixth Form and Community College, Warrington; and, as Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England, attends a dinner for the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and others in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

### LECTURES

National Portrait Gallery: Jonathan Stephenson, "Artists' Techniques Series: Sir Anthony and the alchemists", 1.10pm.

### CHESS

ION SPEELMAN

APART FROM Michael Adams's splendid win, the great sensation at the tournament in Dos Hermanas was Viswanathan Anand's execrable form, which netted him seven draws and two losses without a single win to share last place on just 3.5/9. Clearly, the usually scintillating Indian is in serious need of a long rest, but his play must also have been adversely affected by negotiations that started way back on 12 March - long before the beginning of Dos Hermanas on 6 April - as to a possible match with Gary Kasparov in October.

Billed as the "Ultimate World Chess Championship" this has been set up by the Dutch businessman Bessel Kok, the dynamo behind the wonderful Swift tournaments in Brussels in the late Eighties and the now long-defunct Grandmasters' Association (GMA), which last year organised Kasparov's match with Jan Timman in Prague, intended as a warm-up for the aborted World Chess Council (WCC) world championship match with Alexei Shirov.

Kok brought in the Canadian entrepreneur Serge Gmiraux to promote and organise the event, the Swiss banker Dr William Worth, and a former Fide president - now speaker of the Icelandic parliament - the grandmaster Fridrik Olafsson, to bolster the bid, which includes a prize fund of \$3m to be split 2:1.

Although Kasparov has already accepted - and crucially agreed to put his title on the line - Anand, who presumably felt railroaded, left Dos Hermanas for a month in India nowadays he spends most of the year in Spain without committing himself either way.

The organisers' deadline of Friday 23 April has passed, and there had still been no reply by Sunday night. But, before leaving, Anand told the top Spanish chess journalist Leoncio Garcia, of *El País*, that he considers the offer serious. No doubt, Anand will want some further time at home to compose himself. But at least there is now some possible action in the troubled world championship arena.

## Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

27 APRIL 1999

**R v The Bloody Sunday Inquiry, ex parte B and others**  
*Court of Appeal*  
*(Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward)*  
30 March 1999

THE COURT of Appeal had jurisdiction to entertain an appeal against part of the reasoning of the Divisional Court in its decision on an application for judicial review.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the second "Bloody Sunday" tribunal against one of the grounds for allowing an application for judicial review of its decision to grant only partial anonymity to certain witnesses who had been granted complete anonymity at the original inquiry.

The original tribunal of inquiry had been set up in 1972 under Lord Widgery to inquire into the events in Londonderry on "Bloody Sunday", in the course of which 13 people were killed and others were injured as a result of shooting by the British army. In January 1998 the Prime Minister announced that a second tribunal would be set up to conduct a fresh investigation. Both inquiries had the same terms of reference.

On 17 December 1998 the second tribunal gave a ruling that five soldiers who had admitted having fired live rounds on the day in question, and who had been allowed to give evidence anonymously at the Widgery inquiry, would not be allowed to remain completely anonymous in that their surnames could be revealed during the course of the present inquiry, unless special circumstances justifying such anonymity were shown to apply in individual cases.

Four of the soldiers applied for judicial review of the tribunal's ruling. The Divisional Court declared the ruling invalid on five grounds, and accordingly held that the matter

of anonymity should be returned to the tribunal to be re-determined. The tribunal appealed to the Court of Appeal against the decision on one ground, namely that the decision was flawed because of a misunderstanding of "the nature and extent of the anonymity granted to the applicants by Lord Widgery" and that it was "important for the inquiry to have a clear perception of what was granted in 1972 and what endured".

On the appeal, it was argued for the applicants that, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, the Court of Appeal only had jurisdiction to entertain an appeal against "any judgment or order", and not against one of the reasons for a decision.

*Edwin Glasgow QC, David Lloyd Jones and Michael Bools (Treasury Solicitor) for the applicants; Christopher Clarke QC, Alan Razzburgh and Jacob Grieson (Philip L. Rudd) for the respondent; Edwin Glasgow QC, David Lloyd Jones and Michael Bools (Jacqueline Duff & Co) for soldier H, an interested party;*

John Coyle (B.M. Birnberg & Co as London agents for McCartney & Casey, Madden & Finucane and Desmond J. Doherty & Co for the families of the dead and injured, interested parties.

Lord Woolf MR said that Order 59 rule 10(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court set out the wide powers of the Court of Appeal on an appeal, and Order 53 rule 9(4) referred to the powers of the court on an application for judicial review where an order of certiorari was sought, namely to quash the decision in question and remit it with a direction to reconsider. Although the Divisional Court had not availed itself of the power under Order 53 rule 9, the Court of Appeal would have had power to remit the case in the same way as the Divisional Court could have done, thus enabling it to correct any error there might have been.

The tribunal, in considering the question of anonymity, had adopted what could be described as a "clean sheet" approach. However, to reveal the names of the applicants now would be in direct conflict with the anonymity they had been granted in 1972.

The Divisional Court had not, by its decision, fettered the proper role of the tribunal, but had only drawn the tribunal's attention to a matter which it could not ignore. It had not bound the tribunal to take any particular course, but only to take account, when reconsidering the matter of anonymity, of the obvious inference to be drawn from what Lord Widgery had said in granting anonymity.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
experiential, adj.

SHOULD HER Majesty make Chris Woodhead, her Chief Inspector of Schools, stand in the corner? For him, to dally with a sixth-former is "educative and experiential" all round. It is hardly a romantic word ("feeling experiential, darling? I'll chill the Chablis"). Indeed, according to Coleridge's *The*

*Statesman's Manual* (1816), where it first appears: "The understanding or experiential faculty, untroubled by the reason, has no appropriate object but the material world". Oddly, it was first used as an adverb (1647) by Henry More - and to describe the spiritual influence on the soul.

Woodhead's text is more Cole Porter. He "learned romance / On the sacred teachings of science", youth should "do what all good scientists do, / Experiment".



12



# HEALTH

New anti-ageing treatments promise to slow the process of growing old – if you can afford them. By Polly Sellar and Roger Dobson

## The price of eternal youth

Once, the bearer of a crinkling complexion had two options: to grow old gracefully or to submit to the scalpel. Now dermatologists seem to have discovered a Third Way. The latest option for those hoping to turn back time lies in cosmetic dermatology, a relatively new medical specialty. This involves the use of recently developed skin drugs to reverse some of the age-related changes that mark out mature faces, and devices, such as lasers, that quite literally obliterate them.

As with so much in Western life, the US is at the forefront of these developments. There are just 300 dermatologists serving the entire UK population, compared with tens of thousands in the US. Extraordinary advances in the understanding and treatment of ageing skin has meant that there are many more medicines willing and able to eradicate your lines and age spots.

Not all wrinkles are inevitable signs of the ageing process. Many, if not most, are in fact the result of sun damage. The result of both holiday burn and imperceptible daily wear and tear is what's now termed a "prematurely" aged skin – a thinner, less elastic dermis (the lower level of your skin) and a thicker, toughened epidermis (the outer layer). The naturally aged skin, by contrast, exhibits a fine, thin epidermis and a springy, thick dermis with lines forming almost exclusively where the skin folds to allow for facial movements.

So if you feel your face betrays your youth-

If your concern is, instead, the depth of the creases that traverse your face, or the deflating nature of once full and youthful lips, a filler may be prescribed. Collagen is the best known of them, but is rapidly being eclipsed by newer replenishing agents. Your own fat can be a source of facial-line filler and many dermatologists now believe that it can be the longest-lasting of all the temporary fillers. The newest filler, however, is permanent, albeit reversible. Softform is a surgically inserted, hollow, pliable tube of non-porous Gortex. It is usually used along naso-labial folds (the "smile" lines running from the nose to around your mouth) or along the vermilion border of lips to increase their volume. Once in place, your own tissue grows into the hollow to anchor it.

Botox is perhaps the most exciting weapon in the dermatologist's anti-ageing arsenal. It's not a filler, but it can soften existing lines and prevent future ones. It is taken from the botulism bacterium, but is purified before being injected into the muscles that are responsible for frown lines, crow's feet, and even neck lines. Its effects are temporary, up to three months for the first injection but progressively longer for each subsequent treatment.

But if your complexion is crinkled beyond the help of these methods, you might try laser resurfacing, the newest variation on the chemical-peeling process. The latest generation of lasers can obliterate a birthmark, zap warts, erase spider veins, remove unwanted hair, and iron out wrinkles and age-spotted skin.

Of the many different lasers in use, the two employed for skin resurfacing procedures are the CO<sub>2</sub> and the erbium-YAG. Both work by vaporising the water content of a cell, which results in a burn. The skin is so keen to regenerate itself that it

does so without bothering to replicate many of the lines it built up over time.

With all new medical technology come voices of caution. And those raised in relation to cosmetic dermatological should be doubly heeded, not least because the rules and regulations governing who can do what to whom in this country are astonishingly lax. You can't really go too far wrong with AHAs, but higher-strength ones – those above 15 per cent – should be used under the supervision of a trained physician. Retin-A, or Retinova, can only be prescribed, but some disreputable companies got around this by setting up GPs in offshore locations who issued "prescriptions" to mail-order customers. Use too much Retin-A, or use it on the wrong sort of skin, and you can end up with a very red, raw face. And despite their "new improved" status, lasers remain highly destructive. Dermatologists admit they are on a steep learning curve as to what they can do, and that it's a full-time job keeping abreast of the developing technology.

There is now much more than simply "hope" in a jar of skin cream. But those keen to benefit from the latest advances should be aware that these treatments are not as risk-free as the sweet-smelling concoctions we're used to buying. With any cosmetic procedure, you want to be certain you're remedying an existing problem rather than creating a new one.

PS  
For a list of dermatologists, contact:  
British Association of Dermatologists  
(0171-333 0266)



Sunny disposition: soaking up the rays takes its toll on skin. Sun-worshippers may be among those trying anti-ageing treatments

Edward Sykes

## A time-machine in a tablet

AN ANTI-AGEING treatment nicknamed the "time-machine tablet" is about to land in Britain.

The capsule of compounds, based on extract of crushed grape seeds, has been hailed by celebrities such as the French actress Isabelle Adjani and Princess Caroline of Monaco, who claim that it puts a break on advancing years by combating skin damage from sun, pollution and smoking, and smoothing out wrinkles to keep them young.

The supplement, Oligomeri Pro Anthocyanidolic capsules, or OPC, is claimed to have an antioxidant effect 50 times more powerful than vitamin E and 25 times more powerful than vitamin C. It is said to work by blitzing the body with antioxidants, currently the fastest-growing sector of the health supplement market.

No disease or infirmity seems too big a challenge for antioxidants. They can, it's claimed, delay or prevent the onset of cancer and heart disease, slow down the ageing process, extend life span, boost fertility, reduce memory loss and keep the skin young. These compounds are produced by the body and also occur naturally in many foods, including broccoli, tomatoes, nut oil and spinach.

In the body, they protect cells from being attacked by free radicals, which

are produced naturally by metabolising cells, and can damage DNA.

The question is whether taking supplements containing antioxidants can boost the body's capacity to fight off the ill-effects of ageing, or whether they are merely excreted – as expensive urine. Experts are still unsure.

There is also concern that much of the research work that has been done with antioxidants has been done either in the laboratory, or on animals.

"The concept is a valid one but there has not been the scientific scrutiny that they really do produce the benefits in humans that are claimed. Most of the systemic, internal studies on antioxidants have been done on animals," says Professor Nick Lowe, a dermatologist at the Cranley Clinic in London. "There you can show decreases in risks of skin cancer and other cancers with some mixtures, but I think it is rather a leap of faith to believe you are therefore going to get improvements in humans."

"We did a study when I was at the University College of Los Angeles, which lasted eight years, where we looked at using beta carotene as an antioxidant. We wanted to see if there was any reduction in skin cancer when you supplemented diets with beta carotene

compared to placebo. We found no benefits. There have also been studies on bowel cancer, but to my knowledge there has not been a published study on the systemic effects of antioxidants on ageing in the human skin. Many of the activities of antioxidants are presumed from how they work in the test-tube."

As we get into our thirties and forties the levels of antioxidants, like many other things, start to diminish. It's believed that production of the enzymes that neutralise the free radicals can be encouraged by supplements, and by eating food containing antioxidants.

One man who is in no doubt about the value of taking antioxidants is Professor Lester Packer, head of the Packer Laboratory at the University of California. He says that they can both prevent disease and extend life span.

"Thousands of studies have now confirmed that antioxidants can help prevent numerous diseases and will not only enhance life, but in all probability extend it. There is overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrating that those of us who eat a diet rich in antioxidants and take antioxidant supplements will live longer, healthier lives," he enthuses.

There are scores of different types of antioxidants, but Professor Packer and

his team have identified a number of key players – vitamins C and E, lipoic acid, glutathione, and a special molecule he calls COQ10.

"What we have found here is that these work together to bolster and strengthen the entire defence system. When combined they greatly enhance the activity of one another," he says.

OPC, from Laboratoires Caudalie in Paris, is designed to increase the body's levels of antioxidants by the use of grape seed polyphenols mixed with borage and primrose oil.

Many people regularly take antioxidant supplements, and many more have changed their diets to include food rich in natural antioxidants. But it is still not known whether synthetic antioxidants are as good as the real thing.

"We know how antioxidants work and from animal studies we know they are beneficial, but there is still a debate on the benefits of taking antioxidant internally to combat free radical damage. For many people the jury is still out," says John Lovell, a cell biologist.

Professor Packer, however, practises what he advocates with daily diet boosters. And that, he says, is why he is still a full-time scientist at 71.

RD

## A high price for the NHS

THE CALL came late on Thursday evening as I was preparing to go home. "Would you be interested in a medical negligence case?" asked a woman's voice.

I admit that my heart sank. Like all health reporters I am a target for aggrieved patients wanting to tell of the crimes and misdemeanours of the NHS. Invariably there is too much detail and too little proof, and the cases are repetitive.

I gave my standard response. Would she like to set down brief details on a single sheet of paper and send it to me? "So you are not interested," she said. I paused. I don't know why I relented – perhaps it was her flat Yorkshire vowels, or her matter-of-fact delivery. "All right," I said. "Tell me, as briefly as you can."

The Independent was not the first newspaper she had

called. Others had responded as brusquely as, at first, had I. But as I listened I realised this was a story worth telling. The case of Patricia Briody, who gave birth to two stillborn children and had her womb removed before the age of 20, who spent 15 years in ignorance of what had happened and then a further 10 fighting for compensation to pay for, she hopes, two surrogate births, appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

Mrs Briody had an abnormal pelvis, which was too narrow to allow her to give birth naturally. That might, just, have excused her doctors when her first pregnancy ended with an emergency Caesarean and a stillborn child. But when it happened a second time, with disastrous consequences (an emergency hysterectomy, it

### HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

looked like culpable carelessness. She was childless, barren and still not 20 years old.

Hers looks like a cast-iron case for compensation and 25 years later that is what the courts have agreed. And yet, and yet. She was offered, and turned down, first £50,000 and then £100,000. If her final award were twice this sum – which is unlikely – it would still be

small compared with the £2m and £3m awards made in the last year. But, as with all negligence claims, when the huge costs of the case are added in, it remains a major drain on the NHS.

For, make no mistake, justice for Mrs Briody is bought through the imposition of a tax on the sick. The cost of meeting claims like hers is rising at £100m a year and now tops £300m a year – £300m that is paid out of the NHS budget and would otherwise be available to improve run-down hospitals, train more obstetricians and improve maternity care.

Mrs Briody argues, with justice, that when you look at the sums awarded in libel actions to minor celebrities who have suffered nothing worse than a blow to their pride, £100,000-plus for the loss of a family seems a

paltry sum. But in a public service like the NHS should not different rules apply? Negligent staff should be penalised and injured patients compensated, but though the award of punitive damages may save the consciences of those responsible, it can only harm patients who come later by depriving them of already limited resources.

Yesterday marked the launch of a new, fast-track process for dealing with medical negligence claims which should help to stem their ferocious growth and improve satisfaction for damaged patients. Some measures should be simple to implement. If Mrs Briody had had an apology and a full explanation 25 years ago, she would have been saved a lot of pain, and the NHS would have been saved a heavy bill.

MY SPLEEN was ruptured in a car accident and had to be removed in an emergency operation. I have been advised to take penicillin daily for the rest of my life. Is this really necessary?

It is possible to live a long, healthy life without a spleen, but you are at increased risk of potentially life-threatening infections caused by the pneumococcus organism. A daily dose of penicillin will substantially reduce the risk, and many people without spleens take it for years with no apparent ill effects. You may also be offered vaccination against pneumococcal infection for added protection, but you still need to take penicillin.

OUR FAMILY is currently in the middle of an epidemic of ringworm. One child's hair has fallen out and two of us have itchy, scaly skin patches. This is the second time it has happened. Is there a way to prevent it? Ringworm is not caused by worms, but by microscopic fungal organisms that cause a ring-shaped rash. A second at-

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

tack may be caused by a dog or cat carrying the disease, with no symptoms. An anti-fungal cream will quickly get rid of the skin infection. Scalp infections may require several months of treatment by mouth. A specialist laboratory can look at scrapings from the skin to see what organism is causing it, and how to treat it.

FOR YEARS I have had an overactive thyroid gland. Each time it flares up I am treated with carbimazole tablets and beta-blockers. My specialist has now suggested radioactive iodine treatment,

to cure the problem once and for all. Will it work, and is the radioactivity dangerous? This destroys the thyroid gland so it cannot become active again. Radioactive iodine is usually given as a drink. It is active for only a few days, and the success rate is high, though you may have to take thyroxine tablets. There is no evidence of a risk of cancer or any other serious illness.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he cannot respond personally.

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# From genesis to revelation

Sick. Exhibitionist. Wrecker of civilisation. Genesis P-Orridge was so vilified that he left the country. But the founder of the cult band Throbbing Gristle is back and performing at the Royal Festival Hall, of all places. What's he up to? By Declan O'Neill

Genesis P-Orridge is talking about transgression. Nothing new there, except that this is in the middle of a discussion about the panto dame.

"The dame was probably a trickster, almost like the court jester," he says. "The panto dame is the one who is allowed to say the unsayable and to talk about taboos and to break stereotypes."

P-Orridge could be talking about himself, the arch-exhibitionist, a subcultural Widow Twankey who has been saying the unsayable and frightening the nation's youth with his music and performance art for 30 years. On 1 May, the grande dame returns with his new group, Thee Majesty, in a pantomime pageant of transgressive troubadours, Time's Up, at the Royal Festival Hall.

From the performance art group Coum Transmissions through to Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV, P-Orridge's most enduring and distinctive achievement has been his refusal to accept the boundaries between art and everyday life. "Certain individuals," he says, "seem to be prepared to take greater risks for the psychic hygiene of the species."

Though he thrives on the exposure, any critical perspective of his work has been distorted by the negative reaction to his personality. Few musicians can go through so many stylistic transformations as P-Orridge and emerge with reputations intact.

"A British fatwa," is how the Royal Festival Hall's events organiser, David Sefton, describes the media onslaught that prompted P-Orridge to leave the country for America in 1990. Though they pioneered a new paradigm in art, music and fashion, little has been written about the legacy of Throbbing Gristle. "TG's place in the whole scheme of things has taken a while to be fully estimated," says Sefton, "but it's a good time to be talking about Genesis."

The Genesis who fondly recalls how he "used to do things like stick severed chickens' heads over my penis, and then try to masturbate them, whilst pouring maggots all over it," seems far removed from the softly spoken 49-year-old who has just finished watering the plants and feeding his fish. What he misses most about England, he says, are "Quickbrewh teas and Aero chocolate". But does England miss Genesis P-Orridge?

With Throbbing Gristle the subject of

Simon Ford's new book, *Wreckers of Civilisation*, the re-release of the entire TG back catalogue, and now Time's Up, P-Orridge has never been so popular. TG disbanded 19 years ago, but their cult status continues to flourish.

"They never really went out of fashion," says Ford. "They always just found a new audience in each generation that comes along, and I think it's because they're not really specific to a particular style and period." Perhaps with the passing of William



TG disbanded 19 years ago but their cult status continues to flourish

Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and Timothy Leary, our homegrown subcultural gurus are gaining a grudging respect.

Back in 1976 it was a different matter. "These people are the wreckers of civilisation," exclaimed Nicholas Fairbairn, the Tory MP in the *Daily Mail* following Coum Transmission's infamous Prostitution show at London's ICA. Throbbing Gristle - Chris Carter, Peter Christopher, Genesis P-Orridge and Casey Fanni Tutti - played at the opening party: with the punk band Chelsea performing under the name LSD. A raucous affair during which huge amounts of alcohol and psychedelic drugs were consumed, it caused a scandal chiefly because it featured photos of Casey taken from porn magazines. Not to mention the used tampons in a sculpture called *Tampon Romana*.

Though Prostitution marked the end of the performance art, TG assimilated the same sense of transgression. "Rather than translate popular cultural forms into high art," says Ford, "as Warhol and the pop artists had done, TG transformed high art into popular culture."

Four guys thrashing their punk guitars was not enough for P-Orridge and TG

instigated a whole new epidemic of electronic music, an aural assault of infrasound, ear-bleeding feedback, tape loops and white noise. P-Orridge described TG gigs as "the reduction down to the critical moment between being dead and alive".

TG assimilated Fluxus-inspired mail art and punk's Xeroxed DIY dynamic to form Industrial Records. This gave the band full control over marketing and production, but also laid the foundations for a new aesthetic, a new audience, and a new musical archetype. The sound they self-mockingly labelled Tesco Disco, their logo was a picture of the chimneys at Auschwitz, and the company slogan was "Industrial Music for Industrial People".

Pioneering the use of different media, they released every TG "disconcert" on cassette, as well as work by Cabaret Voltaire, SPK, Clock DVA and other exponents of what became known as industrial music, releasing the first music videocassettes and generally lavishing care and attention on the material. Critic Jon Savage calls the TG tape box set "an obsessional fetish of considerable power". *Industrial News*, their own fanzine, gave advice on everything from clothing to weapons. They used camouflage chic as packaging and clothing long before it hit the High Street, having an entire TG camouflage outfit made as part of Lawrence Dupre's Avant Guerre clothing range.

"Within TG we liberated the use of the lyric forever," says P-Orridge. "There was no longer a taboo on what could be discussed in the conceptual format of a song. The Velvet Underground took it to one level, and I think TG completed that task and forever democratised the lyric." Songs such as *Slug Bait* and *Hamburger Lady* - about a burns victim - became anthems to the converted while confirming some people's impression of TG as nothing but sick controversialists.

"Some people simplified what we thought was the message," recalls P-Orridge, unprepared for the unwholesome interest in pathology of some fans who couldn't get enough of songs such as "Hamburger Lady". They neglected to listen to the clean analog synthpop of "Hot on the Heels of Love" that co-existed alongside the haunting "Beachy Head" and "After Cease To Exist" - ambient music a decade before its time.

Today, TG continues to be name-



Genesis P-Orridge: 'We liberated the use of the lyric for ever'

checked. DJ Andrew Weatherall, at the forefront of a new breed of electronic experimentalists, says: "It's only when I started getting into the studio myself that I realised how innovative they were. Back in the late-Seventies, you couldn't lay your hands on a drum machine that easily unless you built one. There were no samplers. I got the same gut feeling from the new Panosonic album as I do from a really early TG live album."

P-Orridge's concern now is "how to bring radical information back to everybody and share it without appearing to be brutal or cynical". He is busy on a novel. The

novel: *An English Breakfast*, which he describes as "Hogarth on acid", while Thee Majesty sees him join forces with Psychic TV associate, Larry Thrasher, and Becker and Mohammed Attar from the *Wreckers of Civilisation* by Simon Ford, Black Dog Publishing, £19.95

"You know how some people will say, 'I always felt that I was a man trapped in a woman's body', and then other people might say 'I always felt I was a woman trapped in a man's body'. I always just felt trapped in a body." Maybe P-Orridge has an afterlife.

Time's Up: *Psychic TV/Thee Majesty & The Mysterians/Scanner/Queenin Crisp* - Royal Festival Hall, Saturday, 0177-960 4242 for details. Genesis P-Orridge on the web at [www.next-new-way-on.com](http://www.next-new-way-on.com) from May. *Wreckers of Civilisation* by Simon Ford, Black Dog Publishing, £19.95

## He came, he sang, he swaggered

WHAT IS Zarzuela? Etymologically, a bramble patch. Historically, it was a 17th-century royal hunting lodge outside Madrid. Musically, it's a sub-operatic art form which, outside its native Spain, has never been given its due. Now it is also Plácido Domingo's vehicle for scaling new heights of stardom. He has made records of it, and he's driving home his advantage with a tour. On Sunday night - for an audience who greeted him with something between an excited buzz and a religious hush - he briefly parked that vehicle at the Barbican.

And in the triumphal progress, he's left nothing to chance. "Veni, vidi, vici": the conquests of Plácido Domingo was the heading on the document pressed into my hands at the door. This detailed his multiple exploits - singing, conducting, and directing all round the world, while also running his own personal opera competition. Not bad for a spring chicken of 58.

From the moment he strode

CLASSICAL  
AN EVENING OF  
ZARZUELA  
PLACIDO DOMINGO AT  
THE BARBICAN  
LONDON

on stage we were compelled - with a man of such confident charisma, there is no other word - to admire his voice. It's all still there, served up with the trademark "swagger". It helped, moreover, that on this occasion he had two young

protégées in tow: soprano Ainhoa Arteta, and mezzo Cecilia Diaz. Whipping briskly through a series of solos and duets, he was blissfully in his element.

And so he should have been, for this was the music his parents sang, and with which he grew up. But it has to be said that the antiseptic vastness of the Barbican was completely at variance with its requirements. Zarzuela had its heyday in Madrid while Offenbach was wowing Paris and Gilbert and Sullivan were doing the same

in London, and it needs intimacy and atmosphere. It's about dramatic thrills and spills; it's not about great voices. In music like this, a voice like Domingo's comes across as merely efficient.

But this was a skilfully chosen programme. Two of the arias were gems, and everything was shot through with a sun-soaked expansiveness, much helped by the fact that the Royal Opera orchestra was conducted by Miguel Roa, music director of the Teatro de

la Zarzuela in Madrid. And, if Ms Arteta's voice did not measure up to her stunning looks, Ms Diaz proved herself a star in the making, delivering an aria by Ruperto Chapi with Verdian grace and force.

I left to file this piece before the encores and the autographs, but a point was clearly made. Zarzuela may be "dead" in that all its composers are dead, but it's definitely something which our own companies should look into.

MICHAEL CHURCH



Domingo: not bad for a spring chicken of 58

## Scratch 'n' sniff

THIS SOLD-OUT event in Hoxton was a hybrid of concert, seminar and technical demonstration of "Turntablism", the use of the record player as an instrument in its own right. We were treated to insights into several different approaches: live performances by Janek Schaefer, Philip Jock and scratch DJs Harry Love and Renegade, plus a film clip of the scratch virtuoso Q-Bert (from the documentary *Battle-Sounds*), with an audience discussion to round off the night.

Love gave a modest but fluent demonstration of his turntablist talents while we watched his hands blurring on a big video screen. Like ice-skating, scratching has become a competitive sport, full of codes and arcane terminology, and Love's crew, the Scratch Perverts, are European champions.

Love demonstrated copy-cutting, beat juggling, the drill, the crab and the combination scratch, carefully name-checking the DJs credited with each innovation. Renegade and Love scratched with dexterity and bravado but their short set was more about process than

EVENT  
INTERFERENCE:  
'TURNTABLISM'  
LUX CENTRE  
LONDON

end result - this was a lecture theatre, not a club.

Schaefer works methodically, building up a soundscape from a small selection of vinyl. His "tripphonic" turntable has three playing arms, so he can use one LP as three sound sources: music runs backwards, forwards, slowed down, speeded up and processed into unrecognisable abstraction.

The audience, thankfully, were prepared to learn rather than confirm their prejudices. You didn't have to buy into any aesthetic world view - DJ culture, sonic art, avant-garde experimentation or even that of co-sponsors *The Wire* magazine - to enjoy it.

For me, the musical highlights were provided by Jock, who wrought a long, largely improvised piece from a handful of old discs. His trademark is the use of four-speed mono Danseuse record players; this

retro equipment gave his performance the grandeur and pathos of Harry H Corbett's in *Stepptoe & Son*: the addition of a discontinued Casio sampler added a hallucinatory sheen.

Sometimes, after a long stretch of jumble, Jock's combination of stuck-needle sounds eased into synchronisation, the annoying click of a scratched single mutating into a steady drumbeat. At other times, his repetitive fragments recalled Terry Riley and Steve Reich's Sixties experiments spiced with humour, as out of the sonic soup emerged Morricone's "Chi Mai", marimba jive, a crying baby and a gentle voice saying: "what do you think this baby wants?" The preponderance of off-kilter loops occasionally slackened tension, but the piece was held together by Jock's sense of pace.

During the discussion, when the turntablists were asked what they listened to at home, Jock replied: "Fifties Frank Sinatra - the albums with Nelson Riddle." "At what speed?" shouted a wag. "Oh, I listen on CD," said Jock.

JOHN L. WALTERS

## A skill to dazzle

CLASSICAL  
BRENTANO STRING  
QUARTET  
WIGMORE HALL  
LONDON

test of a quartet's strengths and weaknesses as any composer. The right spirit is often conveyed with exuberant tuning, walling vibrato and rough edges. In the E minor Razumovsky, Op 59 No 2, the Brentano passed the intonation test with flying colours, and if the first violinist's tone was slightly edgy, anyone who remembered the old Hungarian Quartet, virtually unsurpassed in this music, would have recognised a good precedent. The Brentano's forissimi were positively orchestral, their pianissimi spectacularly distant and secretive. The Allegretto third movement dazzled by with controlled clan.

To choose the Third Quartet of Nicholas Maw as the centre-piece of the evening was neat thinking: here was an American quartet about-to-be resident in London playing a fairly recent work (Maw wrote

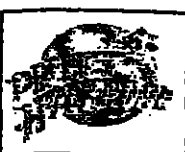
the quartet in 1994) by an Englishman living in the United States. It's an interesting, very solidly written piece in five distinct movements which lead into each other without breaks. The first is lyrical - recognisably English in its swaying melodic lines woven gracefully together, though the music has forceful moments too. The second movement is declamatory and punchy, featuring solo cadenzas with lots of double notes while the other players freeze. Then comes a fugitive scherzo, nocturnal and ghostly, with all the instruments muted. A sort of stamping dance follows - inevitably it recalls Bartok - and the final movement is a passacaglia, threaded on a most unusual "ground" constructed mostly in pairs of notes separated by rests, which give it an elusive and haunting character, this travels, transposed, round all the instruments, and although the surrounding counterpoint is not particularly attractive, the skill of the thing is impressive. So was the performance.

ADRIAN JACK

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As part of our major series on the state of Scottish arts in the run-up to devolution, Suzanna Beaumont issues a warning against relying on past glories, while Tom Lubbock finds he can't move for Paolozzis at Edinburgh's Dean Gallery



# The grass is always greener

**B**ack in 1996, the artist Ross Sinclair constructed *Real Life Rocky Mountain*: an astro-turfed slice of undulating mock "ruralness". Installed at Glasgow's Centre for Contemporary Arts, it was viewed as a parody of the Scottish landscape tradition, an interrogation, if you will, of "Scottishness". With its running burn and stuffed examples of indigenous wild life, you could almost whilst the Famous Grouse waiting from the work's mountain-top hotby.

Three years on, devolution is imminent and it is seen as timely to run a state-of-a-nation-to-be cultural check-up. Is indigenous "Scottish art" likely to over-imbibe on "Scottishness"? Far from it. Scotland's contemporary art scene is more vigorous and worldly than it has been in decades. But let's cut the labels. "Scottish art" is a suffocating blanket of a term. It offers up exclusion zones to the hundreds of artists who have made Scotland their home over the years precisely because it is not hell-bent on parochialism. Here, we are talking art from Scotland.

Yet despite signs of rude health, fears are not unknown: namely that Edinburgh might choke on an overly buttery shortbread finger. A knowingly good-looking city, it's a capital that can contentedly peddle its past. But this is no good thing. Even its annual *fringe* with contemporary culture, the Festival and Fringe, has for years left unmoved a somewhat moribund and conservative art scene.

The National Galleries of Scotland, under Timothy Clifford, have seemed more caught up with drawing-room mieties than the pursuit of curatorial adventurousness. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art continues to put on unmerited, large retrospectives of dead Scottish artists, while the opening of the Dean Gallery last month, the latest addition to the National Galleries, demonstrates more the interior decor sensibilities of Edinburgh's Georgian New Town than clean-cut internationalism.

Yet the Dean's temporary exhibition space could prove a real runner if curatorial complacency is nudged, as has been the case with the city's other galleries. Contemporary art spaces such as the Collective, Stills and Inverleith House have shown increasing confidence to tally with internationalism, not provincialism. Even the Fruitmarket Gallery, Scotland's "leading contemporary art venue" - at times a misnomer - seems to be throwing off its timidity. No longer so dependent on "buying in" tour circuit exhibitions, this Festival they're showing work by the acclaimed American artist Kiki Smith.

Moreover, a number of galleries are wising-up to the talents of Scotland-based artists. Over the next few months work by Callum Innes, Richard Wright, Martin Boyce, Wendy Muir, Moyna Flannigan and Rose Frain, together with so-called emerging artists Paul Carter, Chad McCall, Shauna McMullan and Janice McNab, will be exhibited, something near unimaginable a few years back. And if plaudits were needed, in May 2000 the British Art Show, the hip touring show of new generation artists, will open in Edinburgh. Organised by London's Hayward Gallery, it is evidence, many believe, that the city is now receptive to contemporary art.

Glasgow, however, still holds its own as the more resolutely contemporary of the two cities. In many ways, Edinburgh and Glasgow - only a 45-minute drive along the



Pastures new: Ross Sinclair's 'Real Life Rocky Mountain' (1996) called into question the meaning of 'Scottishness'

M8 divides them - have played out cultural rivalry much like Italian civic states back in the 15th century. It's easy to talk about Glasgow as a city with a "can do, will do" attitude: politically manhandled over the decades by Westminster, its ever-robust socialist sense of community is still keen.

Yet artist-led initiatives such as the international group show *Windfall* in 1991, through to more recent "at home" art shows or an innovative programme of public art projects, do energise the city. Glasgow School of Art and its post-graduate course is one of the most dynamic in Britain, and the artists who enrol tend to stay. They cite a sense of community and cultural openness as reasons.

But there have been slaps in the face. The city's Gallery of Modern Art, which opened in 1996 under the slogan *Art For People* with a mish-mash hang of work, was spoon-fed culture at its worse. Where was the work by Glasgow artists Douglas Gordon or Christine Borland, many asked? Gordon, a winner of the 1996 Turner Prize who premiered his famous *24 Hour Psycho* at the city's Tramway in 1994, is frequently cited as an international star who has been failed by the art acquisitions programme of both Edinburgh's and Glasgow's galleries.

There is, however, a sense of Glasgow taking stock. Perhaps now in the art-world equivalent of the chill-cabinet, its two major arts venues, Tramway and the Cen-

tre for Contemporary Art, are closed for Lottery-funded refits while Bridget McConnell, appointed last year as the city council's director of culture and leisure, is currently thrashing out an arts strategy.

Arguably the "Central Bell" monopoly of art activity is not what it once was. The opening of Dundee Contemporary Arts last month, with its avowed policy of internationalism rooted in a "best of art from Scotland", joins An Tuirteam Arts Centre on Skye and Inverness's Artl'm as venues that are fuelled by the belief that investment in culture makes good economic sense. It puts you on the map and is a tug for tourists.

The Scottish Arts Council (Sac) has been instrumental in promoting this cultural op-

portunism. Whereas England labours under both an Arts Council and a host of regional arts boards, in Scotland the Sac holds supreme. Employing a programme of direct grants and residencies abroad to artists, the Sac has helped put the brakes on concerns of cultural isolation.

Moreover, the Sac is aware of having to maintain a sharp act. Their future under the new government is by no means secure. This doubtless spurred the launch of "Creative Scotland". A national cultural strategy drawn up by the Sac and four other arts organisations, it argues that an effective cultural policy is fully integrated rather than tacked on to government strategy. But the Sac still needs to use its clout.

Scotland's new Parliament is currently being built in Edinburgh and speculation is on-going as to if artists will be brought in to contribute to the design process, a practice which is today seen as a more sophisticated alternative to parachuting in corporate-looking artworks at the eleventh hour. If such initiatives were taken, Scotland's arts policy could be seen as consciously pioneering.

Dangers are, of course, out there, such as Scotland dozing off, satiated with self-contentment. The art scene has to ensure it doesn't become too matey, nor critical debate too lazy. For the moment, however, it augurs well.

SB

## Selling sculpture by the pound

**A** conspiracy, perhaps. Well, it looks like it might be. I mean, when a sculptor, a conspicuously dreadful sculptor, seems to have a city pretty well on a plate, one naturally starts speculating about old chums, blood ties, kick-backs, funny handshakes and knowing where the bodies are buried. Oh, but let me withdraw those remarks unreservedly. I have no conspiracy theory to offer. I have no evidence at all. I am sure that there is a perfectly innocent explanation. And I certainly wasn't for one moment thinking of Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and the city of Edinburgh.

Sure, Sir Eduardo's work is all around Edinburgh. Edinburgh was his birthplace, 75 years ago. One may presume an element of local favour. But then, his work is even more all around London. There are three public pieces in Edinburgh (plus some works in the new Museum of Scotland). But there are five public pieces in London - most recently the variation on Blake's *Newton* outside the British Library - and six if you include the mosaic decorations to the Tottenham Court Road tube. It's everywhere. And if Sir Eduardo were really the centre of a vast web of intrigue, that would at least lend an air of romance to the facts. But I fear the innocent explanation is the true, and the much sadder, one.

Namely: that often as not, the patrons of public sculpture simply haven't got a clue. They have power, but no eye and no idea. They look at these great bronze pile-ups of machine and body parts and they genuinely cannot see an oppressive and

stupefying monumentality as it stares them in the face. Actually, they probably like it. They only wanted an imposing lump in the first place. A lump Sir Eduardo will certainly do you. His remarkable achievement has been to take Surrealist collage, and to eliminate from it all wit, sex, surprise and menace, to serve it up cold and stodgy. And his works have other qualities guaranteed to appeal to the clueless commissioner of public art.

They mean nothing. That is crucial, because any specific meaning is liable to cause somebody offence, and so must be avoided. On the other hand, they're rich in gestures that satisfy the vague ideals of the average public brief. They feature the human figure. That is good, it is Humanity, we are still much in favour of that. But these figures are variously fissured and fragmented, and that is Modern, and we definitely wouldn't want not to be. What's more, they're diagrammatised, anatomised, slotted together with mechanical, geometrical and biological elements, and that is Science and Intellect, which are very important things (bridging the "two cultures," you see). And there's the odd reference to older art, which is Our Cultural Heritage, and very important too. Sir Eduardo's sculptures provide much the same service as Henry Moore's once did. For those who just want something, they seem to have everything.

It's all very unfortunate. These disastrous works are now ill placed and will presumably remain so for ever. We frequently knock down buildings, we almost never

get rid of public sculptures. Too bad. But the idea that, over and above this legacy, Paolozzi should require a personal monument, a museum largely dedicated to him, an actual Paolozzarama, surely beggars belief. Well, all right, it doesn't. Anyway, it opened in Edinburgh last month.

The Dean Gallery is directly opposite the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. It's a restoration/conversion of a sober Greek Revival building with crazy chimney towers - originally the Dean Orphan Hospital. Its dorms and schoolrooms are now exhibition spaces (plus shop and café). Quite a few original orphan features are retained: note the shoulder-high safety banisters on the stairwells. And though everyone's struck by the discrepancy of grand facade and limited indoor volume, gallery-wise there's potential here.

There's some perfectly fine art in it, too. One of the downstairs rooms now houses what was the Modern Art Gallery's Surrealist collection, good Miro and Magrittes, a cute

Edward Wadsworth. Upstairs, the rooms are for contemporary art shows - currently, the Andreas Gursky photos that were at the Serpentine Gallery earlier this year. Sounds OK so far, I hope. But it would give a truer impression to say that although there are points in the Dean Gallery where, if you keep your gaze firmly fixed before you, you can't see any work by Sir Eduardo, there aren't many.

There's not just a lot of it. Its presence is pervasive and structural.

The Paolozzi Gift, "generously presented" by the artist - who wouldn't give generously to their own memorial? - consists of *Vulcan*, a two-storey-filling robot thing; another variation on Blake's *Newton*, (below) as the centrepiece of the café; a room full of his electro-turd sculptures from the Fifties; and a reconstruction of part of the artist's studio, shelves of plaster casts of all sorts of

objects made and found, of feet, heads, gizmos, toys, model replicas of famous statues, the artist's tall-mans and ingredients (awaiting combination and enlargement into one of his street monsters). And you may be thinking, all this stuff could simply be removed, couldn't it? Placed out of sight somewhere, and then the gallery would be all right?

Not so simple. These plaster casts proliferate, infiltrate themselves throughout the building. The place has literally been remade for them. Wherever you turn there's a cluster of them, in nooks, up on ledges, through optics. Take the stairs and notice an opening in the floor, glassed over, as if there was an archaeological remain beneath: there's a bunch of them there. Upstairs, look under your feet: there's a transparent roundel with more inside. Everywhere, the knick-knacks of Paolozzi's creativity. We're to feel we're inside his imagination's shop.

This isn't the worst of it. The worst of it is that the whole gallery is designed as a magic grotto cum fancy boutique, where - mediated by these ubiquitous knick-knacks - souvenir and artwork become indistinguishable. All around the downstairs are columns of elegant glass display cases, lit by micro-lights, as you might find in a posh jeweller's, all alike. Some hold expensive merchandise, a "Miro" mug, a "Cocteau" paperweight; some hold tribal objects collected by the Surrealists; some hold sculptures by Ernst and Giacometti; some hold more Paolozzi tat.

The Surrealist paintings them-

selves are hung higgledy-piggledy up the walls, to discourage particular attention, to create a general spectacle of oddities. Everything is levelled into a culture-curio. This isn't a place for looking at art, but for going ooh and ah, for getting - I've not seen it done so explicitly before - an art-experience. Bad. Bad.

For good, go to Dundee. Dundee Contemporary Arts opened last month too. Of course over the last year or so, there've been a lot of these openings, as the first fruits of the Lottery came through. Most of them have been either revamps, like the Serpentine in London, or conversions, like the IKON in Birmingham. This is purpose-built and it really shows. I suppose there isn't as much literal volume here as in either of those buildings. But the two main Dundee galleries managed to carry a startling amount and variety of works, without them crashing into each other - the point of the very miscellaneous opening show, Prime, was evidently to show this capacity off.

Offhand, I can't think of many more desirable contemporary exhibition spaces in Britain. Everyone always claims to like the historical weight and resonance that come with a recycling job: "Did you know, this used to be an old sock factory?" It's nice to know that new still works.

TL

The Dean Gallery: 73 Belford Road, Edinburgh EH4; 0131-624 6200. Dundee Contemporary Arts: 152 Nethergate, Dundee DD1; 01382 432000



## MEDIA

Andrew Gumbel feels sickened by the relentless exploitation of personal grief he saw after the school massacre in Colorado

# How we feast on tragedy

**H**e wanted to be known just as Zach, and even that might not have been his real name. After all, by the time

he spoke up, he was sick of the media and wasn't going to give them any more than they had to know.

This time last week, Zach was inside Columbine High School, in the suburbs of Denver, when two of his classmates burst in with bombs and semi-automatic weapons in a suicidal orgy of violence that left 15 people dead and more than 20 injured. He was among the first to escape and spent several anxious hours unsure whether his brother, friends, or teachers were alive or dead. At times he broke down in tears, at others he leaned on the shoulder of a classmate for emotional support.

And then that night he switched on the television. "There I was," he protested. "I'd become the icon on SNBC. They came back to me every time they took a break for commercials. I never asked for this, nobody sought my opinion. Frankly, this was the last thing I needed."

Zach felt his privacy and intimate notions were violated just as he was at his most vulnerable. And he far from the only one to react that way to the media onslaught on Columbine High over the past seven days. The networks and the newspapers have talked incessantly about letting the healing process begin, but the truth is they haven't even the students a chance.

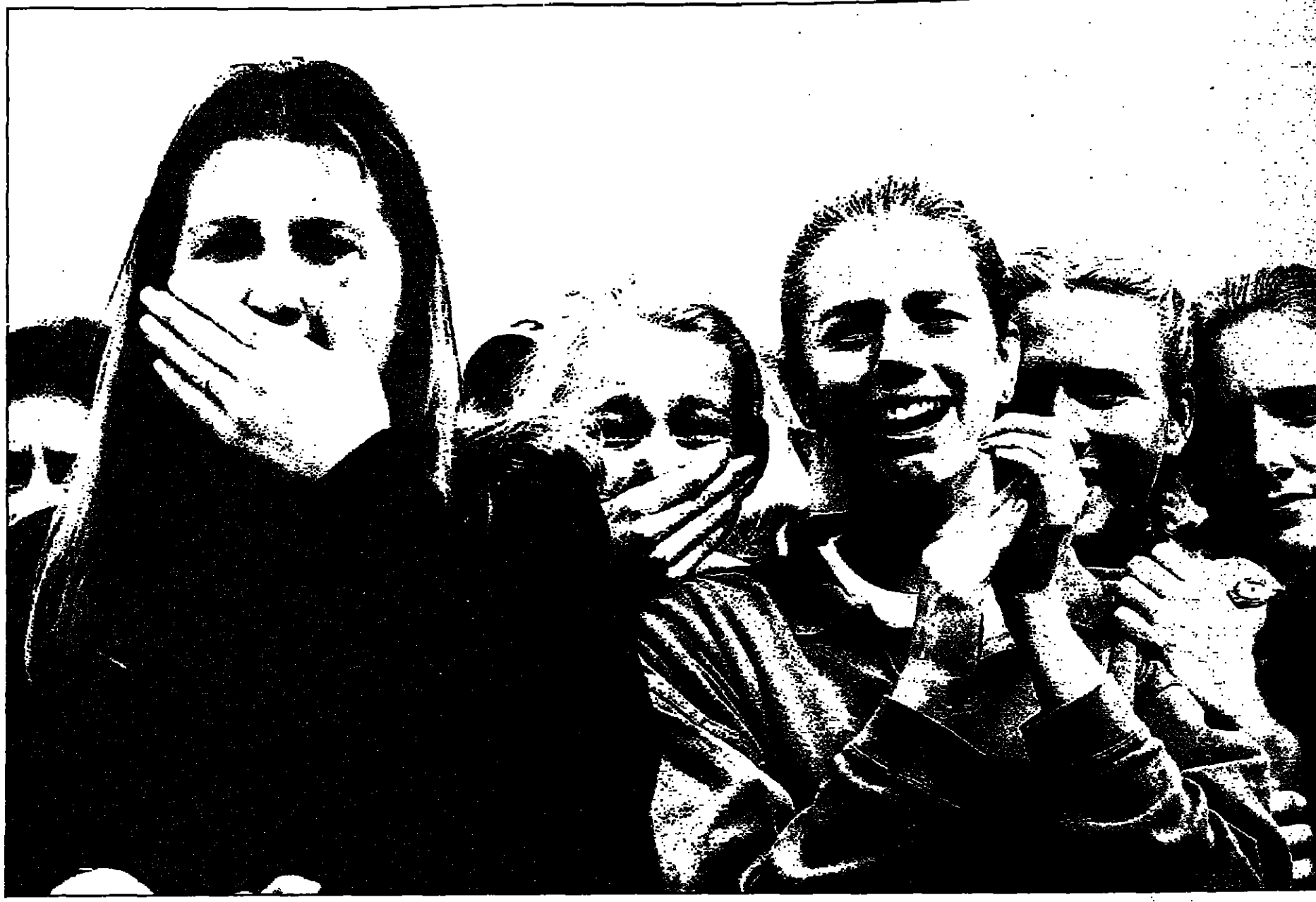
The school parking lot, the nearby park where an impromptu shrine has taken shape, the local churches, the library, the houses of individual

students - all have been under virtual siege by television cameras and reporters as the world has clamoured to find out what exactly happened in those four terrible hours and, more particularly, why. There has barely been a tear shed or a desperate hug offered in a public place that hasn't instantly found its way on to video and been broadcast on network news around the world. In an overwhelming situation like this, the media cannot be an innocent bystander. As the cameras dart around Clement Park, site of the impromptu memorial where the media has set up its headquarters, and pick off any visible sign of heartbreak or despair among the mourners, it is impossible not to reflect that television reporters, in their own way, shoot schoolchildren, too.

"They're like rats," muttered one 15-year-old Columbine student to her friend, not realising that a journalist was within earshot. "They're all over us because we're big news for now, but soon they're going to lose interest and scuttle away to the next thing and dump us like we don't matter any more."

As terror-stricken teenagers have microphones thrust in their faces and are asked over and over to delve into the gory details of their horrifying experiences, one can only wonder what psychological damage is being inflicted on these fractured young lives.

With each day the hostility became more palpable. On the first night, reporters could roam at will among parents waiting to hear about the fate of their children. Among students at church services, and among relatives gathered in hospital waiting rooms to find out whether loved ones had survived.



How much does the world really need to know about the full extent of these children's trauma? And doesn't media coverage exacerbate it? AP

Within three days, however, reporters were being dumped unceremoniously in the snow outside churches and other public buildings and told to wait for the students to volunteer themselves for interview. Security guards in the Southwest Plaza Mall hovered menacingly over anyone brandishing a notebook, threatening to expel them. Neighbours of the two dead killers, having answered the first 50-odd questions, started slamming doors in reporters' faces.

While the media might claim to be performing a valuable public information service, educators and psychologists with experience of school shootings are in no doubt that the real healing can only begin when the media tires of the story and

skips town. "It's absolutely essential that everyone should be able to mourn in privacy," says Larry Bentz, principal of Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, where a student killed two of his classmates before turning a gun on himself last May. "I thought the media presence was appalling then, and I think it is appalling now."

Mr Bentz is convinced that talking to the media in the first flush of shock, when victims are barely in control of what they are doing, can exacerbate the trauma. He banned the media from his school from the outset, and continues to do so. If a student wishes to talk to a journalist, it must be outside the school premises and at the student's instigation only. (Which is not to say he

does not believe the media has a place - he was unflinchingly helpful to this reporter.)

In Springfield, almost none of the students wanted to talk. In Littleton, though, students have come to Clement Park every day with the express intention of addressing reporters. In some cases it has turned into a game: if one member of a group has been on *Dateline*, someone else will try to get on to *Forty-Eight Hours*, or *Inside Edition*, or one of the other network magazine slots.

"It helps validate what happened for them," suggested one local school-board member. One has to wonder, however, about the mental health of a girl like Bree Pasquale, who appeared on television in deep

distress on the first day as she described having a gun pointed at her head for 10 minutes. She continued to give interviews on subsequent days, looking surprisingly composed and relaxed. It was only over the weekend that her mother told a local paper that she did not sleep or eat for 72 hours.

As a member of the media covering the shootings myself, I can only express my deep discomfort at the sense that I and the swarm of colleagues around me were intruding on other people's grief. I tried to talk to people at one or more removes from the tragedy - children at other local schools, pastors, educators, investigators and politicians - and observe those directly affected from a discreet distance.

These are only half-measures, of course, and the experience has left me feeling dirty and unsure as to how much the world really needs to know - in these very early stages, at least - about the full extent of the trauma. I would rather go back in six months' time and then ask the hard, complex questions, when people have recovered sufficiently to give thoughtful answers and are also able to shield those who are vulnerable from prying eyes. But the news business is a voracious monster, and it wants - we all want - answers and images and raw emotion, right here and right now.

We might fancy that we feel empathy for the victims, but the truth is that we are feasting on them like vultures.

## It may be a concrete hell, but it suits me

So what if you can't find a good chardonnay or decent curtain fabric in White City? It beats Broadcasting House any day, says Roger Liddle

"S ALMOST a year now since BBC Radio as dragged kicking and screaming from its W1 redoubt, Broadcasting House, and all the occasional howl of anguish can be heard from the news centre in White City. And it's a bit puzzling, as someone prepared howl in anguish with the best of them, find that the complaints about our new home leave me pretty cold - and ever so lightly embarrassed.

The dissident view can be summed up as: "It was lovely in BH. There were lots of wine bars and pubs and we could nip down to John Lewis at lunch time and browse through the soft furnishings, too. And BH had character! Now we're stuck miles from nowhere in a concrete hell and there are next to no pubs and there's a huge council estate next door. Now, don't get me wrong, public housing is a terrific thing and the people are, I'm sure, charming, but is it absolutely necessary to have them living right next to our park?" That's the gist, anyway, together with a frequently repeated assertion that the news centre in W12 has been "designed" by someone with no experience of making programmes. No, really? You mean, like an architect?

Mine are somewhat heretical views, but when I never spent my lunch-times at W1 sitting pissed or searching for curtain material, it's undoubtedly true that BH was surrounded by drinking-holes, each of which had its own specific clientele and purpose. The World at One drank exclusively at The Dover Castle; *Today* favoured the King's Head. There were pubs to go to if you wished to conduct a clandestine affair with a newsreader; pubs to go to if you wished to ingratiate yourself with management. There was even a pub - rather like The Chestnut Tree café in Weymouth - where dissidents gathered before being shot. Now we only have a council estate. Never mind.

Never mind because Broadcasting House was, in many ways, an appalling place to work. The cramped, sweltering offices; the continual building work; the dark (dark?) smell always present along our corridor, which I'm told came from the canteen but was redolent of an even less savoury source - and the vermin. In the old W1 office I saw a mouse skitter across the floor and a woman stood on her chair and shrieked. And there were fleas; liberal, well-educated, middle-class fleas, perhaps, but fleas all the same.

The more substantive complaints were based around the fear that the BBC intended to merge programme and radio news teams and that the resultant pro-

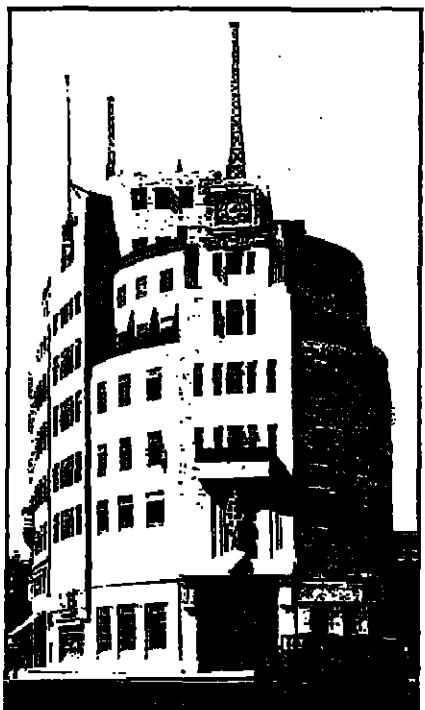
grammes would be a homogeneous mush. But, in fact, over the last year the agendas of *Today* and *Breakfast News* have, if anything, diverged further. This, despite the fact that we work in the same office. And we get on with our TV colleagues just fine: we co-operate - to the licence-payers' benefit - in a way that would have been unthinkable just one year ago. Our initial assessment of the differences between us - they're better-looking than us, but more stupid - still holds, but despite that, it's a warm and growing relationship.

One thing, though: when television people pass you in the corridor they always give you these big grins, because they think you've recognised them because they're famous. Well, we haven't; you're not; stop it. So, I'd rather not return to BH. There are still a couple of problems with our new home - too many guests refuse to come in for interviews and I'd like more privacy in our programme areas - but by and large, it's an improvement.

A few weeks before we left Broadcasting House, I sneaked off to the gents for a cigarette as usual, only to find the door sealed off with that red tape the police use when there's been a murder. I ducked underneath anyway and saw a quite breathtaking sight. A man in blue overalls was poking the ceiling with a long pole. Each time he did so, goblets of ordure splattered down on to the floor, the walls and him. "Blocked up, innit," he said, and added, "Look at me! I'm at a party in half an hour."

So, BBC management - the Corporate Centre - is welcome to BH. And for my colleagues here, pining for John Lewis and a good chardonnay, I say don't worry; we'll find you a good local haberdashers - and White City is awfully handy for the Cotswolds, no?

The writer is the editor of Radio 4's *Today* programme



The way we were: BH in W1

## What the BBC needs is a publicly-elected Dyke

IF THIS were America, the post of director-general of the BBC would be an elected one. So, even now, the various candidates for the vacancy caused by the departure of Sir John Birt would be mailing out their manifestos and polishing their slogans. And, I should guess, the man campaigning under the slogan of "I Like Dyke" would not only enjoy the rare privilege of becoming a lesbian icon, but might very well win.

Greg Dyke could make an astute appeal to voters based on his record as both a successful businessman and a programme-maker; he could add a promise to maintain BBC standards while ensuring continued mass popularity; and - not least - he could pledge to use his undoubted influence with a Government that itself stands high in the polls. His unstuffy manner and counter-Oxbridge way of speaking, as though his words were being strained through a thin quilt, would all help him. The fact that he'd given money to help Tony Blair get into Number 10 would be no problem at all. Quite the reverse.

But the job isn't elected. It isn't even, really, appointed. Not in the straightforward sense of a series of interviews being held and the best person for the job being rung up and congratulated, and that's it and done and dusted. The director-generalship is a deeply political post, decided in a wonderfully shadowy way. Right now, long before the process is finished, various governors of the BBC will be coalescing around this candidate or that candidate. And if the chairman of the Beeb, the redoubtable Christopher Bland, doesn't know whom he wants as DG, then I'm a lead singer in a boy band. It's what he's for, after all.

What he may not know is whether he can get his person in (I say "person" out of good habit. In fact, none of the favoured front-runners is a woman). The BBC is not a commercial operation, and Bland



DAVID AARONOVITCH

cannot simply bully his fellow governors into compliance. And he must know that they themselves are being remorselessly lobbied, not just by the aspirant DGs themselves, but by just about everyone employed by the Corporation. Careers way down the organisation absolutely depend on the outcome of this appointment. There are undoubtedly 29-year-old assistant producers in tight entertainment who will be calculating, down to the very month, what the impact on their promotion prospects would be of a Ventocracy, say, versus a Byford regime.

The rest of us, however, are still completely in the dark. What is it that the governors are looking for? His lazier critics have painted the catholic Birt as a son of the Inquisition, demanding true faith from his employees lest they feel the lick of purifying flame. History (in so far as it will be bothered at all) will probably portray him as the man who saved the BBC first from Thatcherism and then from bankruptcy.

But there is no such thing as an institutional settlement for the BBC that will see it through the next 70 years, as it has the last. Things are changing far too quickly. No one has the least idea what the impact of digital TV will be on broadcasters over the next 10 years.

Some favour a nice, slowish evolution towards a 50 per cent share

of the market for the main conventional terrestrial channels (as happens in the US). Others believe that the channel-controllers will wake up one morning and find the whole nation watching items on fishing, origami or anal sex on TV sets programmed just for them.

In either context, what will justify the public funding of the BBC will not be how many people are watching BBC1 at 8pm versus how many are tuned into ITV. A ratings war with purely commercial telly is almost exactly the opposite of what the BBC currently needs. Competition in terms of quality? Yes. An eye to the audience? A dumbed-down, sod-the-News-get-me-Cilla bare-knuckle fight? That would be nothing short of a catastrophe.

This is going to be, I grant you, a hard trick to pull off. Persuading the world that quality, innovation and distinctiveness (which are impossible to measure) are more important than straight viewing figures (which aren't) will be a tough battle. It will require an aggressive reaffirmation of the BBC's core role.

Now, if Greg Dyke is on for doing all this, then he will have - I think - the public credibility to pull it off. His appointment, under these circumstances, would appear to be murky only if the Board of Governors were not to be absolutely open about their strategic and personal reasons for having appointed him. And if Greg isn't on for it and yearns (as some Harvard-trained types do) to turn the Corporation into a commercial broadcaster, then he shouldn't get the job anyway.

Oh, and here's another little thought for next time. Why should not the applications of all the candidates for the post of DG, their supporting statements and their plans, be published on the Internet for all of us to look at?

We pay after all.



Mazher Mahmood of the *News of the World* uses subterfuge to nail the bad guys. But how does he decide what's in the public interest and what's a stitch-up? By Rachel Thackray

# The merchant of doom

Johnnie Walker, the soothing voice of Radio 2's *Drivetime* and Saturday afternoon programming, has been suspended by the BBC. Last week, a reporter from the *News of the World* claimed Walker was filmed cutting cocaine and offering to supply prostitutes to visitors from overseas. Another scoop notched up for Mazher Mahmood, the paper's Investigations Editor.

One hopes this latest victim won't resort to the tactics of one of Mahmood's previous targets. In 1997, the *News of the World* ran a story claiming that Paul Moyle had offered a hit man £5,000 to have Mahmood gunned down. The hit man turned out to be another reporter. "He's worse than the police," the paper reported Moyle as saying. "Other villains won't do business with me since I've been in the paper."

Even after being sacked by *The Sunday Times* for deception, Mahmood received the industry stamp of approval: he was voted Reporter of the Year in March for scoops including his exposure of the Newcastle chairman and vice-chairman Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall last year. His editor has good cause to be pleased. While other Sunday tabloids have slumped, the *NoW*'s sales figures remain healthy at 4.13 million.

Little is known about the man himself. The paper uses a silhouette of his face for a picture byline. Mahmood, known as Maz to friends, is in his mid-thirties, from the West Midlands, and is the son of a magistrate. *NoW* editor Phil Hall rates Mahmood as "the best reporter in the business by a long way. He's extremely bright, intelligent and very, very careful. I can't remember a libel writ against him, and we have millions of letters each week."

Others are less enthusiastic. Publicist Max Clifford is critical of the way Mahmood operates. "He came up to do an interview with a client, and as soon as my back was turned, he was trying to persuade the client to deal with him directly. It was nipped in the



Above, left: Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, the Newcastle directors exposed by Mahmood. Right: Johnnie Walker, the Radio 2 DJ suspended after allegations of drugtaking

but, but that's the kind of thing he does. I have been dealing with the editor of the *News of the World* for years, and Mahmood's the only reporter who's ever done that. It speaks volumes."

Mahmood is, apparently, equally careful in his elaborate subterfuges, using a camera lens the size of a drawing pin, which he conceals in his jacket lapel. "You have to be able to think on your feet," said Hall, citing a recent example in which Mahmood posed as an Arab. "He didn't realise the contact was going to bring an Arab with him. He started to speak in Ara-

bic and Mazher turned it on his head by going into a complete rage, shouting at the subject and saying, 'This is an insult to my nationality and a terrible insult to my host country'. It can be very dangerous. He has a minder with him all the time. He must be the only reporter in the world who regularly has people turning up on his doorstep at 6am."

While Mahmood's track record is beyond doubt, his methods are not. There have been allegations of "canibalsm", a reference to the fact that he has repeatedly exposed immigrant scams, such as the staged weddings

which help illegal entrants to Britain to get visas.

"There's an unease in the fact that as a non-white journalist, he spends an awful lot of time exposing black and Asian crimes," said one journalist, who declined to be named.

Phil Hall denies this: "I don't think he does any more Asian stories than others. He's of Asian appearance and so he's going to mix in those circles." He added: "We have done a fair few immigration scams. But he would never do a set-up. If somebody comes to us and says Johnnie Walker is doing drugs and I will supply them and you



can catch him', we'd run away from it. It has to be the person you are targeting as the perpetrator and instigator of what's happened."

Media commentator Roy Greenslade wrote what Hall called a "hatchet job" on Mahmood, following the Newcastle exposé. At the time, Hall was quick to respond to the criticisms: "I am amazed you have printed such an extraordinary, unbalanced attack... one sometimes has to use subterfuge to nail the bad guys. If it's in the public interest, what's the problem?"

Public interest is precisely the problem, said Greenslade. "You have to treat every story on its own merits. You have to ask: is there a public good being served on this occasion? There's a fine line between setting someone up, and catching them in the act. I know the problems the *NoW* has had in catching someone in the act. They have to prepare a scenario, because it's the one way they can get tape or video recording. And at that, Mazher is the world's greatest living expert."

"The rule of thumb, based on my instinct, is this: is the person being exposed acting in their private life, or did their public position warrant that they were guilty of gross hypocrisy? With the Newcastle story, I decided there wasn't enough public good. These two were lured into a very neat set-up, and I don't think it was right."

## THE WORD ON THE STREET

PHIL HILTON, editor of *Later*, the new IPC men's magazine which launches tomorrow, is reflecting ruefully but philosophically on some prime empty billboards which should have been carrying ads for his magazine. Poster company TDI decided yesterday it was unhappy with an ad saying "Get the coke for Jamie's party" with boxes to tick - one saying two litres, the other saying two grammes. "It was just making a joke, a pun," says Hilton. "We were using the drug to symbolise the conflict between the hedonism of youth and the responsibility of growing up." No doubt he will be just as philosophical when the poster companies see his next symbolic conflict, an ad saying: "Grass - mow it or smoke it?"



DAVID MONTGOMERY's desire to buy the *Express* titles is not just causing panic among his former employees who thought they had escaped. Sub-editors on the *Express* are approaching or past middle age fear the arrival of the man who kept a curious picture on his wall at Mirror Group Newspapers when he was chief executive, and would lead visitors over to it. The picture was of the *Daily Mirror* subs desk with a youthful Montgomery on it. He had moved onwards and upwards, he would explain, but the other unfortunate was still subbing away, lacking his entrepreneurial spark. *Express* subs should brush up on their business plans.

TWO MORE Belgrade correspondents of British newspapers have been expelled from Yugoslavia. *The Financial Times*'s Guy Dinmore and *The Guardian*'s Chris Bird have both been ordered to leave. Their exit follows that of Tom Walker, based in Belgrade for *The Times* for the past two years and married to a Serb, who had his multiple-entry visa cancelled last Wednesday. Dinmore, an FT stringer, sent an e-mail to the paper's foreign desk on Sunday saying he had been told to go. The *Guardian* correspondent had already left Belgrade early yesterday. "There was no reason given for Chris Bird's expulsion, but perhaps it is no coincidence that he was expelled the day after the Serbian TV station was bombed," said Ed Pilkington, the *Guardian*'s Foreign Editor.

JON FLOWMAN, head of comedy entertainment at the BBC and producer of *The Vicar of Dibley*, is evidently stung by criticisms of BBC sitcoms over the last week - criticisms attributed to the director general among others. At the Montreux Festival this weekend, Flowman was heard rubbishing his European competitors. "They're all about big sight gags which are widely signalled right the way through. European sitcoms make Terry and June look like an evening with Patrick Marber."

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# I'll see you out of court

Enough litigation madness! The Woolf reforms will knock heads together and encourage claimants to settle. By Robert Verkaik

**Y**esterday's momentous changes in the civil courts came too late for Rotherham widow Hazel Archer. For the last 10 years she has been embroiled in one of the longest house repossession cases in history. There has been such delay and uncertainty in her case that she has been forced to keep all her plants in pots at the back of the house because she didn't know whether she owned the garden earth in which she wanted to plant them.

In 1988, the Northern Rock building society sought possession of her home after she was unable to pay back a £21,000 loan linked to the mortgage. The case became further complicated when she sued her former solicitors for not advising her properly in the transaction. Last year, after half a million pounds had been spent on the case, the Court of Appeal finally ruled in her favour.

Mrs Archer's case is the very type that the Woolf reforms are intended to help. Her lawyer, Louise Sykes of law firm Irwin Mitchell, said: "I would now expect this case to be heard within two years, maximum, and I would expect the parties to have had their heads banged together to come to a settlement."

From yesterday, incompetent lawyers will be penalised by judges, frivolous and vexatious claimants will have their cases struck out, and legal bills will be proportionally limited to the value of the case. In short, justice is expected to be quicker, cheaper and fairer. The reforms, part of recommendations made by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, also include greater emphasis on alternative dispute resolution.

Under the new procedures Mrs Archer's case would be heard much quicker, the legal costs would be restricted and both parties encouraged to find an alternative solution at an earlier stage.

The reforms are also designed to stop the sort of litigation madness which allowed a Sheffield man to sue 113 different people including his milkman, gasman and finally, God. It cost him just £50 to cause a lot of misery for innocent people who found themselves having to go to the expense of defending writs. From this week, the merits of a case like this will be assessed much more quickly, and additional payments on top of the writ or "claim form"



Hazel Archer is locked in a 10-year legal dispute over her house. Under the new Access to Justice Bill, such cases will be resolved more swiftly. Joann Russell

fee, will kick in so that only those serious about their litigation can move forward.

The legal profession is expected to hit the ground running, and judges have already warned lawyers to expect little mercy if they walk into court unprepared. But old habits die hard, and on Friday the High Court taxing office was crammed full of solicitors desperate to submit their last bills under the old, more generous costing rules. But many lawyers still have reservations about the initial success of the new system.

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice Chancellor, head of civil justice, has already said that the courts' new

computer system will not be up and running for at least another 12 months. Ian Walker, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said: "It's all very well expecting us to be proactive and dynamic, but if the technology can't deal with the changes then there will be problems." Louise Sykes also warned: "It's all right for those who can pay for a Rolls Royce legal service - but what we don't want is lawyers cutting corners."

Yesterday was also the day the Law Society chose to launch a radical newspaper advertising campaign attacking Government proposals to change legal aid. Ac-

cording to the Law Society, a number of underprivileged people will be worse off if the Access to Justice Bill is enacted. One of the cases that the Law Society is highlighting concerns a Bradford couple, Roselyn and Christopher Fontaine, who were stopped by police while driving home from a wedding. They were assaulted, falsely imprisoned and faced a number of trumped-up charges which were later dismissed by a magistrate. The Law Society says: "Luckily, thanks to legal aid, the couple were able to highlight this example of police misconduct, by being able to sue West Yorkshire police in the High Court." In November 1997

the couple were awarded £18,000 in compensation. The Law Society adds: "Without legal aid, solicitors won't be able to do this kind of work. Only the very rich will be able to pursue such cases."

One of the ads placed in national newspapers shows a black man who claims he has been "stitched up" by the police. The advert says: "Under the Access to Justice Bill, legal aid won't be available unless he can prove he is almost certain to win his case - even though it's against the State." At the bottom it adds: "The parents of the late Stephen Lawrence share these concerns about the impact of the bill."

The Law Society describes the Access to Justice Bill as a "crude attempt to ration people's access to their rights." Law Society president Michael Mathews said: "The advertising campaign is a wake-up call about the threat to justice posed by the Access to Justice Bill. There is a real danger that the Government, despite the view of its backbench MPs, will push through proposals that will deny justice to many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society." This is the first time the Law Society has taken out advertising to oppose Government policy. It is a decision that has annoyed the Lord Chancellor, Lord

Irvine of Lairg. He said yesterday that he was "very disappointed" and accused the Law Society of "scaremongering." He added: "Many vulnerable people will be made to believe that they will lose their access to legal aid. That is just not true. In fact, legal aid will be available in precisely the types of cases raised by the Law Society." The Lord Chancellor's Department has gone to a lot of trouble to answer each of the Law Society's criticisms. It takes issue with almost every thing the Law Society claims and describes as "myths" the five case examples chosen to illustrate how people will be worse off under the new Bill. In the case of the Fontaines, the Department says that because police brutality and false imprisonment are not examples of negligence, legal aid would remain available.

What the Lord Chancellor will have more difficulty defending is the result of a survey carried out by Harris and commissioned by the Law Society. It showed two thirds of Labour MPs believe the Government's proposals to open up justice will have the opposite effect. Ninety-six Labour MPs responded to the survey, which also found that two thirds of Labour MPs thought legal aid should be a right. The Bill proposes to scrap legal aid in most types of personal injury and replace it with a "no win, no fee" arrangement for financing litigation. Under Woolf, the two sides would be encouraged to mediate as soon as possible.

## What does Woolf mean?

Fast track: uncomplicated cases under £15,000 will be heard more quickly - within 30 weeks of the start of proceedings.

Multi-track: claims above £15,000 will go to the County Court. Claims above £50,000 will go to High Court.

Hands-on judges: judges will have greater powers to stop lawyers using delaying tactics or making unnecessary applications.

Mediation: judges will get parties together at an early stage in order to assess whether an alternative to litigation would be a more suitable course of action.

The cost of litigation: It will be more expensive to bring a case, but cheaper in the long run as judges will keep down overall costs in proportion to the case.

## Rights and wrongs of war

Lawyers have swapped gowns for camouflage to advise the Army in Kosovo. By Robert Verkaik

THREE YEARS ago, Jo Bowen was a newly qualified solicitor working the magistrates' court lists in Bath. Last week she found herself among the tens of thousands of Kosovo refugees at the Macedonian relief camp of Brazda. She was asked to advise on an incident in which a Macedonian soldier had used his rifle butt to strike a Kosovar Albanian. Major Bowen is one of two solicitors sent to Macedonia by the British Army to advise its commanders in the field on rules of engagement and the protocol of the Geneva Convention.

But while the Army waits for orders to enter Kosovo, and it becomes more caught up in the daily tragedies of the refugees, Major Bowen has had to tailor her legal ad-



Major Jo Bowen: from magistrates courts to a Macedonian refugee camp. Major Ian Seraph

*A soldier can only use 'reasonable force' to deal with a threat from a sniper*

vice to suit the Army's ever-changing role. The Brazda request for help came from British soldiers working at the camp who had heard about the assault. "This is a very tricky situation," explains Major Bowen. "The only way a British soldier could help is by somehow coming between the rifle butt and the refugee, and using the law of self-defence."

The Brazda incident highlights the increasingly legal complexity of stationing a peace-keeping force carrying out a humanitarian mission on neutral territory in a war zone. It needed to be handled carefully as there is no existing bilateral agreement between the host nation, Macedonia, and the UK, to govern the British Army in Macedonia.

There are practical difficulties too. "The camps are run by the Macedonians and the UNHCR. Our influence here, in terms of security, is limited," says Major Bowen. If NATO gives the order for its forces to go in to Kosovo, either as peace-keepers or to take on the Yugoslav army,

Major Bowen and Major Eliot Glover, the second solicitor deployed, will be expected to play a battlefield role. "We may not be riding in the Challengers," says Major Glover, a solicitor in Torquay until two years ago, "but we will be with headquarters vehicles, available to give advice on the ground where needed." NATO's legal tactical support has been strengthened by the arrival of two more UK lawyers who joined the NATO headquarters in Skopje earlier this month.

The principal legal challenge thrown up in a peace-keeping operation is expected to focus on the soldier's right to protect himself. Snipers will be among a number of possible headaches for commanders and legal advisers on the ground. UK domestic law and Army regulations mean the soldier can only use reasonable force to deal with the threat. A sniper taking occasional pot-shots at a British Army unit will not merit a disproportionate response if the soldiers are there solely to keep the

peace. For example, a heavy concentration of artillery fire to take out a single sniper may not be justified. To remind them of their duty to the law, every soldier now carries a special law card which outlines the law of self-defence.

If the political leaders give the order for a ground offensive, which turns into a "full-blown" conflict, the soldiers will be subject to new rules. The lawyers will have to advise on the interpretation of the Geneva Convention. And as combatants,

the two lawyers, part of the Army Legal Service and each armed with 9mm pistols, are not only expected to provide legal input but also, if necessary, to act as soldiers in the field. Major Glover is attached to 4th Armoured Brigade, a force of 3,000 soldiers, 14 Challenger tanks and two companies of Warrior infantry. Major Bowen is part of the National Support Element attached to the 1,200-strong combat support group which services the Brigade.

While the Army awaits NATO's order to move in to Kosovo, much of the legal work relates to the Army's relationship with the Macedonian authorities. This relationship has already been tested. A number of road traffic accidents involving British Army vehicles led to the

*'Things develop very quickly so we brief commanders on a number of scenarios'*

Macedonian authorities ordering soldiers to appear before their courts by summons. Major Bowen explains: "I had to meet the local police chief and explain that we had exclusive jurisdiction in these matters." The poor roads and the Macedonian custom of driving hell for leather whatever the road conditions has led to a number of crashes. Some of these "smash and bash" cases have already generated compensation claims. Major Glover helped to set up a proper legal procedure so that local people whose property or land has been damaged by the Challenger tanks or other heavy armour can be compensated.

While the lawyers on the ground have no say in the legal consequences of going in to Kosovo, they do have to respond to an ever-changing political climate. "Things can develop very quickly here," says Major Glover, "so we have to brief commanders on a number of possible scenarios. The situation is changing all the time."

## BRIEFS

IT IS the one word that can strike fear into the heart of the most litigation-hardened company executive. McLibel, the most fearsome neologism to ever enter the legal lexicon, was uttered again last week in the High Court in the case of *Mansanto and Genetix*. Snowball, where Mansanto, the GM food producers, are seeking an injunction against five women who allegedly trespassed on their land. One of the defendants told the court that she and her colleagues had every intention of defending the case in much the same way as the McLibel Two had done, which ended in the longest case in English legal history. But perhaps just as worrying for the company is the fact the defendants are, unlike the McLibel Two, legally represented by another name that can cause directors' pulses to race - Leigh Day & Co, the personal injury supremos.

SENIOR PARTNERS in Northern Ireland law firms seem to have trouble sewing on their own buttons and brewing up a decent cup of tea. According to a survey carried out by the Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland, one out of three female lawyers has experienced sexual harassment. Although there were a number of cases of "wandering hands" and "body brushes" in the office, most complaints concerned old-fashioned chauvinism. Women complained of being forced to carry out "stereotypical tasks" including tea-making, babysitting, and "softening up" clients, as well as sewing on buttons. These findings compare poorly with the results of similar studies recently undertaken by the Policy Studies Institute on behalf of the Law Society of England and Wales, which showed that one in 10 women solicitors had experienced sexual harassment.

SOUTH PARK, the popular American cartoon series, has

joined Linford Christie's lunchbox and Gazza as the latest example of contemporary western culture to escape the attention of the judiciary. Last week, Mrs Justice Arden came face to face with the cuddly toys alleged to represent Kyle, Stan, Kenny and Cartman, when they were carried into court as evidence in a passing-off action. While the judge had to admit ignorance, Adrian Speck, counsel for the claimants, said in court: "In my chambers, all the unmarried young men are very keen on it."

THE DOUR omnipresence of Derry Irvine has done nothing to dampen the spirits of those working in his department. In this month's edition of *Hearsay*, the strictly in-house journal of the Lord Chancellor's Department, there is a guide to what the now defunct legal Latin terms really mean. Ad hoc, according to the magazine, is "publicity for a pawnbroker" while *Doli incipit* is "the work-shy underclass that's undermining the fabric of our great British society". Other suggestions are: *Ultra vires* - you've got a heavy cold; *Prima facie* - what you look like before you put your make-up on; *Forum conveniens* - large public toilets.

CLIFFORD CHANCE, the UK's biggest law firm, is not content with its pre-eminent status in Europe. Rumours have been rumbling along for several months that its senior partners have been in negotiations with one of New York's finest, the attorneys of Rogers & Wells. If the rumoured deal goes ahead, this would be the largest ever transatlantic merger. The strategy behind the merger would enable Clifford Chance to take on the New York law firms in their own back yard, and give the combined firm some real global clout.

ROBERT VERKAIK





# THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

## NEW FILMS

**BESIEGED** (PG, 92 mins)  
Director: Bernardo Bertolucci  
Starring: Thandie Newton, David Thewlis  
In a startling volte-face from the epics of recent years, Bertolucci's new film, *Besieged*, confines itself principally to a cavernous Roman townhouse. It charts the festering master-servant relationship between Thewlis's highly strung concert pianist and Newton's refugee housemaid, all torrid glances and stuttering moments of communication. At once small-scale and ripe with melodrama, this is a mixed bag, but with a beautifully understated finale. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Repertory: The Pullman Everyman*

**THE BRYLCREEM BOYS** (15, 106 mins)  
Director: Terence Ryan  
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell  
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt: stereotypes are paraded, uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. *West End: ABC Pantom Street*

**DANCE WITH ME** (PG, 126 mins)  
Director: Randa Haines  
Starring: Chayanne, Vanessa L. Williams  
Building to a predictable finale at the World Dance Championships, the clanking *Dance With Me* has its Cuban emigre hero (Chayanne) alighting in the US of A to hunt for his long-lost pop (Kris Kristofferson), while still finding time to romance Vanessa L. Williams's ballroom beauty. *West End: Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas*

**8MM** (18, 123 mins)  
Director: Joel Schumacher  
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Joaquin Phoenix  
The dead hand of Hollywood politics is evident all over this would-be provocative trip through LA's porn hinterland. Nicolas Cage copes well as the private eye hired to validate what looks to be snuff-movie footage, but such scuzz requires careful handling, and Schumacher lets it take over. Frustratingly, *8mm* winds up contaminated by that which it is nominally investigating. *West End: Clapham*

**MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE** (12, 132 mins)  
Director: Luis Mandoki  
Starring: Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn  
Kevin Costner's South Carolina boat-builder writes a love letter to his dead missus. Letter goes into bottle, bottle into sea. Lonesome lady (Robin Wright Penn) finds bottle. Complete the plot in less than 50 words. We all know where this one's headed, don't we? True love, pain of the past, a dash of redemption, and that's it, you're done. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Notting Hill Cornet, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas*

**THE MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET** (15, 100 mins)  
Director: Brian Koeel  
Starring: Parker Posey, Jeremy Northam  
Parker Posey is Margaret, a kind of Penelope Pitstop of romantic fiction. She touches down in Paris, weds Jeremy Northam's dippy Englishman, and writes an effervescent book or two in New York. Brian Koeel's film follows a screwball rhythm, over-egging the farce, tossing in bodice-ripping dramatisations and, crucially, leaving the characters under-drawn. The normally luminous Posey displays a series of self-conscious ticks and twitches. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue*

**SIDE STREETS** (15, 131 mins)  
Director: Tony Gerber  
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Valeria Golino  
A kind of *Short Cuts* without the cut. *Side Streets* rustles up a quintet of stories from New York. Cue lively vignettes and proficient playing from a multi-national cast. The whole tapestry of New York life is dry-cleaned, lightly embroidered and unrolled for your pleasure. *West End: Plaza, Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12*

**AMERICAN HISTORY X** (18, 119 mins)  
Director: Edward Norton  
Starring: Edward Norton, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas  
Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller, sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). *West End: Warner Village West End*

**AN AUTUMN TALE** (10, 111 mins)  
Director: Eric Rohmer  
Starring: Eric Rohmer  
The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is a lovely elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Romand) - middle-aged and single - gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men. *West End: Curzon Minima, Renoir, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre*

**ROOMS AND HALLWAYS** (15, 96 mins)  
Director: Kevin McKidd  
Starring: Kevin McKidd  
In this latest offering from *This Life* school of British film-making, Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner runs the romantic gamut in the run-up to his 30th birthday. *West End: ABC Piccadilly*

**BLAST FROM THE PAST** (12, 111 mins)  
Director: Hugh Hudson  
Starring: Hugh Hudson  
Hugh Hudson's workmanlike Cold War satire has Brendan Fraser's late American man (called Adam, natch) emerging from the nuclear bunker that his parents holed up in during the Cuban Missile Crisis. With Alicia Silverstone. *West End: Warner Village West End*

**A CIVIL ACTION** (15, 115 mins)  
Director: John Travolta  
Starring: John Travolta  
John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and absorbing courtroom saga which nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas*

**THE FACULTY** (15, 104 mins)  
Director: Robert Schwick  
Starring: Robert Schwick  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas*

**FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION)** (15, 106 mins)  
Director: Thomas Vinterberg  
Starring: Thomas Vinterberg  
Filmed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, *Festen* begins in a rush of pure, unfettered drama. The film's rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. *West End: ABC Pantom St, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre*

**GODS AND MONSTERS** (15, 105 mins)  
Director: Peter Jackson  
Starring: Peter Jackson  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas*

**HAPPINESS** (18, 134 mins)  
Director: Robert Schwick  
Starring: Robert Schwick  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Curzon Saha, Odeon Camden Town, And local cinemas*

**THE THIN RED LINE** (15, 170 mins)  
Director: Terrence Malick  
Starring: Terrence Malick  
Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair results in a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to the film's creeping narcotic mood. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket*

**WAKING NED** (PG, 91 mins)  
Director: Robert Schwick  
Starring: Robert Schwick  
A rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two Irish scallywags scheme to get their paws on some lottery loot. *West End: Odeon West End, And local cinemas*

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**Gods and Monsters** (15)  
A drill speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

**Happiness** (18)  
Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a dark comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

**The Faculty** (15)  
Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie. Why can't all teen films be like this?

**High Art** (18)  
A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

**Shakespeare in Love** (15)  
This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp (right) suggests how romantic: find Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

## THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**Good** (Donmar Warehouse, London)  
Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

**Making Noise Quietly** (Whitehall Theatre, London)  
Very welcome West End run for Deborah Bruce's lovely poetic revival of Robert Holman's sensitive upright about the emotional effects of war (right). To 22 May

**Mamma Mia!** (Prince Edward Theatre, London)  
Designed to bring out the Dancing Queen in the straightest soul, this silly, enjoyable compilation musical finds flagrant plot excuses for 27 Abba golden oldies. Booking to 11 Sept

**Volpone** (Swan Theatre, Stratford)  
Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)  
In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania is sex-on-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct

## THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Jackson Pollock** (Tate Gallery)  
Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

**Thinking Aloud** (Camden Arts Centre)  
Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art and life: an assortment of rough drafts and try-outs. To 30 May

**Andreas Gursky** (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)  
Photographs 1994-98: huge, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

**Antony Gormley's 'Field'** (Firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)  
One of the great hits of the decade (right): a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 23 May

**ESP** (IKON Gallery, Birmingham)  
Contemporary artists investigate the paranormal in this weird group show, including Susan Hiller's frightening and wonderful video installation about the psychic powers of children. To 13 Jun

TOM LUBBOCK

## CINEMA

### WEST END

**ABC PANTON STREET**  
(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly Circus  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**ABC SWISS COTTAGE**  
(0870-902 0404) • Leicester Square  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0870-902 0404) • Leicester Square  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**ABC TOTTENHAM CT RD**  
(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Ct Rd  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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## LONDON LOCALS

### ACTON

**PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE** (0181-888 8890)  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**BARNET**  
(0181-888 8890) • High Barnet  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**BECKENHAM**  
(0181-888 8890) • Beckenham Junction  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**BEXLEYHEATH**  
(0181-888 8890) • Bexleyheath  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**BROMLEY**  
(0181-888 8890) • Bromley North  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**CATFORD**  
(0181-888 8890) • Catford  
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**CROYDON**  
(0181-888 8890) • Croydon  
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**DAKENHAM**  
(0181-888 8890) • Dagenham  
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**EDMONTON**  
(0181-888 8890) • Edmonton  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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The Red Line 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**ELING**  
(0181-888 8890) • Ealing  
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**FELTHAM**  
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**GLAZING**  
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## RICHMOND

### ACTON

**PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE** (0181-888 8890)  
The Boyfriends 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm  
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**BARNET**  
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**EDMONTON**  
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g vessel (5)  
ired (6)  
frican mammal (5)  
ave (4)

**Crossword:**

11 Viper, 12 Khaki, 13 Faction,  
29 Agree, 30 Iridium, 31 Usur,  
7 Stake, 8 Chafin, 9 Pruze, 14  
4 Gnome, 28 Opera, 28 Reign.

19 Sailing vessel (5)  
20 Repaired (6)  
21 S American mammal (5)  
24 Engrave (4)

**Concise Crossword:**  
10 Turnish, 11 Viper, 12 Khaki, 13 Faction,  
14, 27 Apron, 28 Agree, 30 Iridium, 31 Uni-  
22, 26 Nuptial, 7 Stake, 8 Chafe, 9 Prune, 14  
n, 23 Affix, 24 Gnome, 26 Opera, 28 Reign.

**DOWN**

- 1 Pendant (6)
- 2 Rotate (7)
- 3 Intermezzo (8)
- 4 Movable barrier (4)
- 5 Style of Ancient Greek columns (5)
- 6 Season (6)
- 7 Asiatic language (5)
- 13 Afflicted (8)
- 16 Luxurious (7)
- 17 Feed for animals (6)
- 19 Sailing vessel (5)
- 20 Repaired (6)
- 22 American mammal (5)
- 24 Engrave (4)

ACROSS: 1. Maxam, 4. Icing, 10. Maximus, 11. Tarnish, 11. Viper, 12. Kiosk, 13. Faction, 15. Apeel, 17. Rifle, 18. Idyll, 21. Late, 25. Bunk off, 27. Apron, 28. Agree, 30. Iridium, 31. Usual, 32. Agent. DOWN: 2. Aorta, 3. Initial, 5. Civic, 6. Nuptial, 7. Stake, 8. Chafe, 9. Prune, 14. Adit, 16. Pelt, 18. Innards, 20. Dealing, 21. Abcam, 23. Affix, 24. Gnome, 26. Opera, 28. Reign.



